OUR KINGDOM SERVICE

JANUARY 1976
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FOR UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Dear Kingdom Publishers:

Did you have a share in the first *Watchtower* subscription campaign? Likely not, for that was in the year 1939. But the 35,466 who reported service that year were having such fine success that the campaign was extended an extra month. The final result of that five-month campaign was that over 93,000 subscriptions for *The Watchtower* were obtained.

Watchtower subscription campaigns have continued to have success right down to the present. Since the year 1939, 24,745,991 subscriptions for *The Watchtower* and *Awake!* have been obtained. No doubt the majority of these have been obtained during special campaigns and these have been instrumental in boosting the circulation of *The Watchtower* to over 10,000,000 at the present time. Many of us were first introduced to the truth through *The Watchtower* and are overjoyed with its increased distribution.

The Watchtower has obviously had Jehovah's backing since its first printing of 6,000 copies in July of 1879, when it was known as *Zion's Watch Tower and Herald of Christ's Presence*. Although the magazine has not been supported by financial aid through commercial advertising, the annual subscription rate has always been very reasonable. At the start it was a monthly magazine and the subscription rate was $.50. This was increased to $.60 in 1891. Then in the November 1891 issue there appeared a notice that, beginning with January 1, 1892, the magazine would change from a monthly magazine of 16 pages to a semimonthly one of 28 pages with an annual subscription rate of $1.00. The subscription rate remained unchanged until August 1, 1971, when increased prices of paper and mailing caused the subscription rate to go up to $1.50 a year.

(*Continued on page 8, col. 2*)

Keep Awake to the Privilege to Preach!

[1] What a grand privilege it is to be witnesses of the Sovereign Ruler of the universe, to bear his name, to share in a work that he has commissioned! This precious privilege is ours as the Christian witnesses of Jehovah. Do we appreciate it?

[2] Jesus showed us how to demonstrate that we are truly awake to this privilege. He said: "We must work the works of him that sent me while it is day; the night is coming when no man can work." The work that God has entrusted to us is not something to be carelessly put off; now is the time to do it, while there is yet the opportunity. What does that work include? Jesus explained: "For this I have been born, and for this I have come into the world, that I should bear witness to the truth." (John 9:4; 18:37) His doing that included his seizing every opportunity to preach the good news, making that a prominent part of his life. (Luke 4:43) He set the example for us. Are you following his lead? Are you keeping awake to the privilege to preach?

[3] That it is possible to lose one's appreciation for that privilege is evidently indicated by a recent survey showing that about 30 percent of the publishers in this country are irregular in their field service. That means that occasionally—and in some cases, often—an entire month goes by without their sharing the truth with others. Additionally, how many others are there who participate only to the extent of a few hours each month—not because of limitations of health or other restrictions, but because they do not truly cherish the privilege to preach? They may reason, "Well, I did do *something* in the field service this month." But is that whole-souled service?—Luke 10:25-28.

DOES IT MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

[4] Is there reason for a person who has become irregular in his field service to be concerned? Indeed there is, if it is not due to an unavoidable situation but is a reflection of indifference. To those in the Laodicean congregation who had become lukewarm about their service to God, "the faithful and true witness" Jesus Christ said: "Because you are lukewarm . . . I am going to vomit you out of my mouth." (Rev. 3:14-16) And the apostle Paul warned against in-

(*Continued on page 7, col. 1*)

Helping Those Near You

[1] While the vast majority of Bible studies are started as we engage in house-to-house and return visit activity, other contacts may also yield good results. In one community a check showed that, of 328 newly dedicated persons who had been baptized, 40 percent were introduced to the truth through informal witnessing. Yes, 131 of the 328 who got baptized were helped on the way to life through informal witnessing, generally by persons with whom they were already acquainted.

[2] It is generally recognized that a person's relatives, friends and acquaintances often will listen to him more readily than to a complete stranger. At first such ones may listen just to be polite because they know you. However, when the truth touches their hearts, they respond and act because it is the truth and not because of friendship with you.

[3] Being aware of this advantage, what can we do? We can show genuine interest in their welfare, not hastily concluding that they are not interested and therefore ought to be avoided. Possibly your good conduct and kindness will open the way to discuss the truth, to place some literature, even to conduct a Bible study, with them. Do not be discouraged if they do not respond at first, but be happy if some progress, however small, is seen.

[4] Can we also beneficially apply in our house-to-house work this knowledge of how people respond to those with whom they are personally acquainted? Yes. It can be beneficial to us to get well acquainted with the people in the territory, and especially those in our own neighborhood. In addition to your regular witnessing with the congregation, you may find it helpful to have a personal territory near home that you can work thoroughly a number of times so that people get to know you. As they develop greater confidence and trust in you they may eventually begin to listen.

[5] In our preaching work we find people who are glad to have us deliver the magazines to them regularly, though they may show no

(*Continued on page 7, col. 3*)

YOUR SERVICE MEETINGS

WEEK STARTING JANUARY 4

10 min: Song 8. Enthusiastic talk on points selected from pages 16-32 of the *1976 Yearbook*.

20 min: "A Secure Future—How You Can Find It." Discussion and demonstration on use of new booklet. (At previous *Watchtower* study remind publishers to bring *Secure Future* booklet to service meeting.) Want to become well acquainted with new booklets. They are designed to help us start studies. Not difficult to conduct study after it is started—problem is to get it started. How can this be done? Why not try to get the householder to look into the booklet quickly and in the simplest way possible? Could simply say to householder: "Notice this subject, 'A Secure Future—How You Can Find It.' This is something all of us are interested in, isn't it?" Then, if you have the householder's attention, you can say: "Notice what it says here." Open to page 3 and begin reading, doing so with appropriate feeling. Read entire paragraph and then ask the question at the bottom of the page, doing so in a conversational way. No need to say, "Now I am going to read the question at the bottom of the page." Avoid formality. Chairman asks audience for comments. Does anyone have a suggestion to make it even more simple?

Prepared publisher demonstrates how to get into booklet to start a study, following the above presentation as closely as possible so audience will learn by repetition.

Then can have the publisher demonstrate how we might proceed with next three paragraphs (if it appears householder is receptive), reading the paragraph first, then asking the question in a conversational and animated way, but not putting householder on the spot. Publisher brings discussion to a close and makes definite arrangements to return for further discussion.

Encourage publishers to give thought to these suggestions and to try to use them this week to start studies, where possible, on the first call.

17 min: "Presenting the Good News—With the *Watchtower* Subscription." Questions and answers. At appropriate points have prepared publisher demonstrate presentation using opening article in current *Watchtower*. Have publisher obtain subscription and give householder magazine and three booklets and then walk away. Chairman asks, "Did he [she] forget something?" Have publisher return, using simple transition to direct attention to new booklet, read first paragraph, ask question and start friendly discussion.

13 min: Concluding Comments. Highlights of Branch Letter. Ask brothers to bring booklets to next service meeting. Song 12.

WEEK STARTING JANUARY 11

25 min: Song 15. Question-and-answer discussion of paragraphs 1-10 of insert on "Speaking with the 'Same Line of Thought' About Our Service to God."

18 min: Which Booklet to Use? As you discuss this subject, occasionally draw audience into discussion through questions. Our three new booklets were especially designed for home Bible study work. Each booklet was prepared so as to appeal to a certain group of persons. Draw on material in paragraphs 3-5 of the front-page article of the December 1975 *Kingdom Ministry* to show how this is so. In order to be able to use these booklets most effectively in the field, we must listen closely to what the householder says. When we know his thinking we will be in a position to decide which booklet would be especially helpful to him.

Demonstrations: Have four different publishers present subscription offer to four different householders. Omit introductions, show only the conclusion of the Scriptural discussions, and give brief subscription offer. First householder takes offer and three booklets; second accepts only two magazines and three booklets; third accepts only booklet; fourth takes no literature, but, in view of conversation, publisher decides to make return visit with booklet in mind. Each publisher, though conversation with householder is brief, draws out different information, revealing the thinking of the householder. After each conversation, chairman questions audience on what the key statements of the householder were, what these revealed about his thinking and which booklet, if studied, would best answer his questions.

Chairman concludes with encouragement to be alert at the doors, listening to what people say, seeking to determine just what they need in order to be helped. Also, encourage all to make some return visits this week to try to start studies.

17 min: Concluding Comments. Accounts report. Also discuss how to fill out subscription slips. Distribute subscription slips to all in audience so they can follow along. One handling this should study thoroughly the S-11 form, "How to Handle Subscriptions Properly," and consider points with audience. Emphasize how vital it is to fill out slips very carefully and neatly, otherwise subscription might never reach subscriber, or could be delayed and cause problems. The correct remittances to be sent in for subscriptions are itemized in paragraph 38 in the *Watchtower Cost List*. About two out of every ten people move or in some way change addresses during the year. Whatever you can do to provide the Society with these address changes in advance will save the Society expense and help to get the magazines to subscribers. Encourage all to bring booklet for next week's meeting. Song 16.

WEEK STARTING JANUARY 18

25 min: Song 17. Question-and-answer discussion of insert, from subheading "Its Use in Dealing with Officials" to the end.

15 min: "There Is Much More to Life!" Discussion and demonstration based on new booklet.

Review the principles of simplicity mentioned two weeks ago for starting studies. Ask publishers for experiences enjoyed since then in field in using the suggestions to try to start studies. (Check for these in advance.)

Turn attention to booklet *There Is Much More to Life!* and make a few comments on type of persons it is intended for. Publisher, using simple introduction, demonstrates use of this booklet to start a study. Speaking with householder, he reads title of booklet and says: "Both of us are interested in enjoying life, aren't we?" If you have his attention, say "Notice what it says here," and start reading with the first paragraph. In conversational way read first question and allow householder to respond.

Chairman and audience analyze what was done, commenting on points they can copy. Chairman comments on new arrangement in these booklets regarding scriptures. Have publishers noticed that scriptures in paragraphs are all quoted and that additional texts are not cited there? Thus when one just reads the booklet it is less complicated and more fast-moving. When conducting a Bible study with the booklet the scriptures to be looked up are the ones cited at the bottom of the page with the questions, not the ones quoted in the paragraphs. Have all in audience turn to their booklets to see this feature.

Chairman encourages publishers to rehearse simple introduction leading into the booklet. Urge all to spend some time this week making return visits to start Bible studies.

20 min: Concluding Comments. "Helping Those Near You." Cover main points in form of talk, although can involve audience as time permits. Remind audience to bring booklets again next week. Song 19.

WEEK STARTING JANUARY 25

25 min: Song 21. "Keep Awake to the Privilege to Preach!" Question-and-answer discussion. In introduction give brief report on number of publishers in congregation, number sharing every month, number irregular, and number reporting 1-5 hours a month. This should be done in a kindly, helpful way with goal of assisting congregation to see where strengthening needs to take place. Point out that we all need encouragement and that this analysis will show how and where all in congregation can share in this. Explain how any in congregation wanting assistance should proceed.

20 min: "Is There a God Who Cares?" Discussion and demonstration based on new booklet. Review the principles of simplicity mentioned previously. Ask publishers for experiences enjoyed in field since then, using these suggestions. Then turn attention to booklet *Is There a God Who Cares?* Make a few comments on type of persons it is intended for. Chairman illustrates simple introduction by reading the three questions on the cover of the booklet and saying, "Don't you agree that there are quite a few people who really want the answer to these questions?" Then he explains that a publisher could continue by saying, "Notice what it says here," and proceeding to read first two paragraphs and ask question in conversational, interested way.

After this brief discussion by chairman, have prepared publisher actually demonstrate introduction and cover first few paragraphs in booklet. Chairman and audience can comment on effective points that we can copy.

Chairman comments on value of illustrations in new booklets and how they can be used to put main points across to students. Illustrations are not simply to make booklet more attractive but also to teach. Have all in audience turn to their booklets and discuss some of the illustrations with them.

Chairman encourages publishers to get well in mind simple introduction to booklet and to be alert at all times to opportunities to start studies. Ask: How many have actually *tried* to start a study this month?

15 min: Concluding Comments. Consider applicable items from Announcements. Mention main thoughts from Question Box. Report on how subscription campaign is progressing. Song 40.

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Speaking with the "Same Line of Thought" About Our Service to God

NO DOUBT you have had the opportunity to read the December 1, 1975, *Watchtower* and the information it gives about the terms "minister" and "ministry." What effect will this Scriptural presentation have on our service to God?

In reality, our service to God continues to be what it always has been. The information in the *Watchtower* articles simply helps us to view that service in a somewhat clearer light, enriching our appreciation for it. It also helps us to understand more accurately the meaning of certain Bible terms and to use them in a way that will bring out more fully their original sense and "flavor." It aids us to avoid causing misunderstanding on the part of persons in the world through our speech, not using English terms in a way that is contrary to their generally accepted sense in modern-day language. And, finally, it helps us to bring the thinking and speaking of all of us, on a global scale, no matter what our language may be, into greater harmony through our having the "same line of thought," solidly based on the Scriptures.—1 Cor. 1:10.

As you will notice, the monthly publication that has for many years been called "Kingdom Ministry" has had its name changed to "Our Kingdom Service," beginning with this January 1976 issue. In this way the thought of service expressed by the Greek Scripture term *di·a·ko·ni′a* is more fully conveyed. This change primarily affects just a few languages: English, Spanish, French, Italian and Portuguese. Why these? Because in the other languages in which this monthly publication is printed, the title already contains the corresponding word for "service," the reason being that there had been a problem in translating "ministry" accurately into those languages. So this new title in our language will bring the name of this publication into closer harmony with that used elsewhere around the world.

Along with the October 1975 *Kingdom Ministry* you received your "Theocratic School Schedule for 1976." Perhaps you noticed that the School is there called simply "Theocratic School" rather than "Theocratic Ministry School" as in the past. From now on we will use that name, "Theocratic School." This will simplify the name of the School even in some languages other than the five mentioned earlier. In German, for example, because of not having a corresponding term for "ministry" in a religious sense our brothers have had to develop a substitute term and thus have called it the "Theocratic Preaching Service School" (*Theokratische Predigtdienstschule*).

The "Kingdom Ministry School" will continue to be known by that name in English. Those now being invited there are elders and are therefore persons who have, in effect, had 'hands laid upon them,' assigning them to carry out a congregational service or "ministry." (Acts 13:2, 3; 1 Tim. 4:14; 5:22) So the name of the School remains appropriate in English.

Use of the Term "Minister" in the Field Service

What about our use of the term "minister" in the preaching activity we carry on in the field? Since the original meaning of the word "minister" is that of a "servant," a Kingdom proclaimer is not wrong in referring to himself or herself as a "minister" in the sense of being a "servant" of God. But will our use of the term be properly understood by the persons to whom we carry the Kingdom message? Or will it raise questions in their minds that might not otherwise be raised, particularly if women or perhaps young persons introduce themselves as "ministers"? Will it really aid in opening up the minds and hearts of people to the message we bring? These are questions we should consider in deciding what will be advisable.

For example, in the land of Greece, where some of the Christian Greek Scriptures were written, a Witness would not go to the doors of the people and refer to himself as a *di·a′-*

ko·nos. Why not? Because the people would think he meant he was a "deacon" of the church, since that is the way the word is now used in modern Greece.

Even where their language contains a word for "minister," brothers in certain countries have found it inadvisable to use it. For example, in most Latin-American countries the majority of the people are of the Catholic religion. Since the Spanish and Portuguese word *ministro* is usually understood to refer to a Protestant or Evangelical preacher, its use may prejudice Catholic persons against the Kingdom proclaimer who uses it.

Then, too, we may keep in mind the apostle Paul's statement as to his manner of endeavoring to reach people with the truth. He says at 1 Corinthians 9:20-23: "To the Jews I became as a Jew, that I might gain Jews; to those under law I became as under law, though I myself am not under law, that I might gain those under law. To those without law I became as without law, although I am not without law toward God but under law toward Christ, that I might gain those without law. To the weak I became weak, that I might gain the weak. I have become all things to people of all sorts, that I might by all means save some. But I do all things for the sake of the good news, that I may become a sharer of it with others."

When we talk to people in their homes, do we not want primarily to present ourselves as being fellow humans, neighbors who are interested in them and their welfare? Thereby they will feel, as it were, "on a level" with us and, we hope, express themselves freely to us. If we introduce ourselves by the term "minister," may this not instead convey to their minds a sense of superiority, as though we were on a higher level than they? We know that in the world the clergymen who are called "ministers" have that designation as a title of considerable prestige, one that gives them a feeling of superior distinction, setting them apart from the rest of the flock in their church. So we will want to consider this factor, too, in deciding whether the use of the term "minister" will actually be beneficial in the witnessing we do among the people in our territory or whether some other form of introduction is to be preferred. Having these points in mind, you may realize, as you think back, that for quite a few months the Society's publications have not used the expression "field ministry" in connection with our field service.

Its Use in Dealing with Officials

At times we may be required to answer official inquiries as to our position in relation to the Christian congregation. It may be asked whether one is a "minister" and, if so, whether one is "ordained." As the December 1 *Watchtower* pointed out, on page 733, paragraph 23: "By the term 'minister' such governmental agencies do not describe or mean the service that every individual Christian may perform in his or her personal efforts to share the good news with others. In answering the inquiries, then, one would reasonably reply in harmony with what the official inquirers are seeking to know, rather than imposing one's own definition on such terms."

To be "ordained," according to the accepted meaning of the term, does not refer to one's becoming a Christian disciple at baptism. Ordination refers to a person's appointment to congregational responsibility, to serve on behalf of the other Christian disciples in the congregation. It applies especially to those doing shepherding or pastoral work within the congregation, although we note that the Greek word *di·a'ko·nos,* often rendered "minister," applies as well to those who are "ministerial servants."

As stated earlier, those serving as elders and ministerial servants do have 'hands laid upon them' in the sense of their being appointed to serve the congregation in positions of responsibility. (1 Tim. 3:1-10, 12, 13; 5:22) In this regard they may be said to be "ordained," in the sense that ordination is generally understood today. We do not view them as a "clergy" class or superior to the rest of the congregation as though these latter ones formed a "laity" class. Rather, they are assigned *servants* of the congregation, being put into such assignments to work on behalf of the congregation and serve the interests of its members. So, while all baptized Christians are servants of God, not all are put into such congregational work assignments or positions of service.

To illustrate the principle here involved, just consider the activity of teaching as done by members of the congregation. God's Word instructs all Christian parents to be teachers of their children. (Eph. 6:4) Older women are to be "teachers of what is good" in recalling the "young women to their senses." (Titus 2:3, 4) And Christians in general serve as "illuminators in the world," which service calls on them to teach inquiring ones of the world about God's purposes, as we do in our Bible study activity. (Phil. 2:15) So all God's servants are invited to do teaching. But does that mean that they are all to receive the designation of "teachers" in the congregation, or that they should be viewed as "ordained" teachers?

We know that is not the case, do we not? For the disciple James says at James 3:1: "Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers, knowing that we shall receive heavier judgment." He was referring to those who are congregational teachers, assigned to do such teaching work. (See Ephesians 4:11, 12; 1 Corinthians 12:28, 29.) It was in that regard that the apostle Paul wrote: "I do not permit a woman to teach, or to exercise authority over a man." (1 Tim. 2:11, 12) So, while the activity of teaching was something in which all Christians could participate, in one way or another, not all were designated to serve as "teachers" in a congregational sense, having an assignment to serve as such.

This helps us to understand why the apostle Paul could refer to Phoebe as a *di·a'ko·nos* of the congregation in Cenchreae. (Rom. 16:1, 2) As *The Kingdom Interlinear Translation* shows, he was thereby stating that she was a "servant" of the congregation. This evidently does not mean that she was an appointed congregational servant, such as an elder or ministerial servant, but simply that she rendered voluntary service to the congregation in a commendable and notable way. Her serving was doubtless of a kind like that of the women who earlier 'ministered [*di·a·ko·ne'o*] to Jesus and his apostles from their belongings.' (Luke 8:1-3) Along similar lines, we may note that Philip the evangelist had four daughters that "prophesied." (Acts 21:8, 9; compare 1 Corinthians 11:5; 13:8.) That does not mean, however, that they were designated as "prophets" and hence next to the "apostles" in terms of vital service rendered within the congregational framework. (1 Cor. 12:28, 29) Only men are referred to as such Christian "prophets," as can be seen by such texts as Acts 11:27, 28; 13:1; 15:32.

So we see that all Christians serve (or minister), but not all are given a congregational assignment of duties to perform, as are the elders and ministerial servants. This does not cause a division in the congregation, such as the "clergy-laity" division found in Christendom's many religions. It is rather a faithful copying of the structure of the first-century congregation of true Christians and the spirit-inspired arrangements then prevailing, as revealed in the Scriptures. There is nothing wrong with the congregational arrangements that Jesus Christ instituted in giving "gifts in men" and in having procedures whereby some would be assigned or appointed to certain duties of service within the congregation. (Eph. 4:8, 11) *It is the way those so assigned conduct themselves* that determines whether the arrangement works out for good and has a unifying effect, or works for ill with a divisive effect. (See Hebrews 13:7.) The apostasy that produced Christendom resulted in large measure from a misuse of the congregational structure and a perverting of its purpose to achieve selfish advantages.—Acts 20:29, 30.

Since at times a request is made by officials for some evidence of "ordination" on the part of those serving in such capacities, a "Certificate for Ordained Minister" has been prepared and will be supplied on request to those elders or ministerial servants needing it. It will show the date, not of their baptism, but when they were appointed to serve in such capacities and hence when a 'laying on of hands' took place in their case.

When an elder or ministerial servant moves, it would be advisable for the body of elders where he was serving to write to the body of elders of the congregation where he has moved, giving their recommendation as to his continuing to be used in the capacity in which he served, rather than wait until such time as that body of elders might write requesting such information. Thus, if this person's "ordination" is at issue in his dealings with officials, and if the body of elders sees fit to recommend his continuing to serve in the capacity of elder or ministerial servant (taking into consideration the recommendation of the body of elders where he served previously), it may be possible to avoid any apparent break in his service as an "ordained minister."

But what of those who are engaged in full-time service as pioneers or members of Bethel families? From the Scriptures it is clear that being an elder or a ministerial servant is not something that one can apply for by filling out a form, such as a pioneer application form or a Bethel application form. Nor is it primarily the number of hours that one may spend in sharing the good news with others that qualifies one for such congregational responsibilities as being elders or ministerial servants. Instead, those receiving such appointment are those meeting the qualifications set out in the Scriptures at 1 Timothy 3:1-10, 12, 13; Titus 1:5-9 and related texts.

Many of those who are pioneers or who serve as members of Bethel families do qualify to be recognized as elders or ministerial servants. Those who do not are, of course, still voluntarily making the direct service of God their vocation, giving of themselves on a full-time basis to that service. Their appointment as a pioneer or member of the Bethel family is an acknowledgment of such voluntary service. Such appointment, however, does not fit the meaning of "ordination" as that term is generally understood. And the fact that sisters and also young persons yet in their teens are accepted for pioneer service and Bethel service would also make the application of that term inappropriate. Since the Bible itself sets out only the two congregational positions of responsibility, that of elders and of ministerial servants, we limit our application of the term "ordained minister" to those in this Scriptural arrangement.

Nevertheless, in addition to the term "ordained minister," in the United States some governmental agencies, such as the Selective Service System, have used the term "regular minister" as describing one who is not "ordained" but who preaches and teaches the beliefs of a religion as his vocation. For that reason, one who is a pioneer or member of a Bethel family and who is not an elder or a ministerial servant, but who wishes some evidence to present that his vocation is of full-time service to God, may request a certificate for that purpose. The certificate will give the date of his becoming a pioneer or a member of the Bethel family, stating that, by virtue of making such full-time service his vocation, he qualifies to come under the governmental definition of a "regular minister."

Does the information we have considered bring any actual change in the position we as individuals Scripturally occupy? No, it does not. How could it when our brothers speaking languages other than the five mentioned above are serving in the same way we are and yet have never applied to themselves terms that correspond to the modern usage of "minister" and "ordained minister"? In reality, our speaking will now harmonize more closely with theirs. Thus, rather than affect what we are, our adjustment simply brings our use of the terms "minister" and "ordained minister" into conformity with what most people speaking English and other Latin-based languages mean by them, and it also eliminates a distinction between our way of speaking and that of our brothers in other lands. Each of us continues to be just what he or she was—a servant of God, in some cases having a congregational appointment to some assignment of service, in others not.

So, then, let us all serve unitedly, having the "same line of thought" as our brothers throughout the world, and may our love "abound yet more and more with accurate knowledge and full discernment." (Phil. 1:9) Let us recognize that it is God who qualifies persons for particular assignments of congregational responsibility and service. (2 Cor. 3:4-6) If we are assigned in this way let us carry out our ministry or assignment of service uncomplainingly and free from selfish motive or desire for self-glorification, relying on "the strength that God supplies." (1 Pet. 4:11; 5:2; 2 Cor. 4:1, 5; Rom. 12:6-8) May those so assigned prove themselves like the apostle Paul and his associate workers who were concerned that the ministry or service assigned them "might not be found fault with," and who were therefore humbly and willingly undergoing all manner of hardship so as to 'recommend themselves as truly God's ministers or servants.' —Read 2 Corinthians 6:3-10; 11:23-28.

Yes, let us all unitedly go on rendering "sacred service" to Jehovah God and to our Lord Jesus Christ from now on and forevermore. —Rom. 12:1; Rev. 7:15.

Keep Awake . . . to Preach! (*Cont'd*)

difference when he wrote: "We desire each one of you to show the same industriousness so as to have the full assurance of the hope down to the end, in order that you may not become sluggish, but be imitators of those who through faith and patience inherit the promises." (Heb. 6:11, 12) So, it does make a difference. One's becoming indifferent, neglectful of the privilege to preach, can lead to loss of the blessings for which one has worked. Surely none of us want that to happen to us.

5 But does it make a difference to the welfare of *others* if we preach to them or not? Romans 10:14 answers: "How will they call on him in whom they have not put faith? How, in turn, will they put faith in him of whom they have not heard? How, in turn, will they hear without someone to preach?" Love for Jehovah and for our fellowman should make us want to be numbered among those who are having a full share in that work of preaching. Lives are involved. After urging Timothy to persist in his service to God, Paul reminded him: "By doing this you will save both yourself and those who listen to you."—1 Tim. 4:16.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

6 Regularity in field service depends to a great extent on a good schedule. It is a fine thing for each one of us to have a schedule that is reasonable, flexible and in harmony with our personal circumstances. If you do not yet have your own service schedule, why not make one up now? You may want to talk to one of the elders and let him know what you have in mind, and undoubtedly he will have encouraging suggestions to offer. Perhaps you can arrange to work occasionally with another publisher; this can be mutually upbuilding. After applying your schedule for a time, you may see ways to improve it, and it is good to make adjustments in line with what proves to be best for you, your family and the territory.

7 The desire to help people in the territory should definitely be a major consideration when we work out our schedule. When are we most likely to find them at home and most receptive? If no one is at home during the day, could we call in the late afternoon or early evening? Doing this, we may find that we are reaching people who have seldom, if ever, heard the good news. By our thus showing genuine concern for individuals we give evidence that we appreciate that more than our spending time is involved if we truly are awake to the privilege to preach.

WHAT THE CONGREGATION CAN DO

8 All of us in the congregation can help one another to prove to be faithful witnesses of Jehovah. When planning to share in the field service, why not invite someone else to join you? Share with other publishers any methods of approach, also ideas for starting Bible studies, that you find to be successful. Appreciate, too, that when you set a zealous example in Jehovah's service, this beneficially affects others, both within your household and outside.

9 A good example on the part of the elders is especially important. At 1 Peter 5:2, 3, they are admonished: "Shepherd the flock of God in your care, not under compulsion, but willingly . . . becoming examples to the flock." Where the elders are exemplary in the preaching work, the congregation usually shows like appreciation for the privilege to preach. Many elders find that, by making advance plans to work with publishers and pioneers in the field service, they can often provide needed personal attention to members of the congregation as they walk together from one house to the next. The field overseer in particular, because of handling field service records, can easily observe who might benefit from personal help, and if loving concern moves him to pass this information on to the book study conductors, they can arrange for practical assistance to be given by experienced publishers. In this way we are aided to be alert, progressive in outlook in our preaching of the Kingdom message.

10 Jehovah's provisions for our upbuilding are regular, consistent, dependable. (Rev. 22:2) Appreciating the grand privilege that it is to serve him, let us all earnestly endeavor to reflect those qualities in our own lives. Make the preaching of the good news a prominent part of your life, and then faithfully report it. Your doing so will give indication that you are awake to the privilege to preach "while it is day."

Announcements

◆ Literature offer, January through April: *Watchtower* subscription, with three booklets, for $1.50, or subscriptions for both *Watchtower* and *Awake!*, with six booklets, for $3.00. If the subscription is not accepted we can offer two magazines and the three new booklets for 25c, and, finally, one booklet.

◆ The Memorial for 1976 will be held on April 14 after 6 p.m., Standard Time. Memorial invitations may be ordered in lots of 250 for 25c, 500 for 50c, or 1,000 for $1. Please remit with order. Please use a separate order blank for these.

◆ The booklet *Defending and Legally Establishing the Good News*, published by the Society in 1950, shows that complete decisions that have been rendered by the courts in favor of Jehovah's witnesses on such subjects as door-to-door work, disorderly-conduct laws, flag saluting, divorce and child custody, and zoning laws affecting use of property for Kingdom Halls, are available by written request to the Society. The *Defending* booklet itself is also available for use and may be ordered along with other literature; see its listing under "Booklets" in the *Cost List*.

◆ Starting in February, circuit overseers will give a public talk that includes eighty colored slides on the theme "God Prospers the Subjects of His Kingdom." At circuit assemblies, starting late in January, district overseers will give the public talk "Are You Doing What God Requires of You?"

◆ A special public talk will be held on March 28 in all congregations. The subject: "Who Is Jesus Christ so that We All Need Him?" In due time, a manuscript for the talk will be sent to each congregation. We suggest that you order handbills soon.

◆ New Publications Available:
Is This Life All There Is? —Danish
Listening to the Great Teacher
—Bicol, Bohemian, Gun, Hiligaynon, Icelandic, Kiluba, Slovak

◆ Available Again in U.S.A.:
New World Translation of the Holy Scriptures (Pocket ed.) —English
"All Scripture Is Inspired of God and Beneficial" —French, Spanish
The Truth That Leads to Eternal Life —Efik, Russian

◆ Out of Stock in U.S.A.:
Divine Rulership—The Only Hope of All Mankind —English, Spanish

◆ The *1975 Yearbook*, which contains the most up-to-date comprehensive account on the work of Jehovah's witnesses in modern times, is still available in English and Spanish.

◆ Change of address information regarding magazines may now be sent to: Watchtower, R.D. 1, Box 300, Wallkill, N.Y. 12589, as listed on page 2 of *The Watchtower* and *Awake!* If a phone call is required, you may call 914-944-2041. All subscriptions, however, both new and renewal, should continue to be sent to Brooklyn.

Helping Those Near You (*Cont'd*)

other interest at first. However, a good relationship develops on these magazine routes after a time, and in some cases studies can be started. One special pioneer tells us that in a recent assignment this was the source of his best studies.

6 It is apparent that people listen more readily to those they know and trust. Being aware of this can help us in witnessing both to those we are now acquainted with and to those we get to know through the house-to-house work.

Suggested Presentation

The theme of the first article in each issue of *The Watchtower* and the scripture prominently featured there.

PRESENTING THE GOOD NEWS

With the "Watchtower" Subscription

¹ We appreciate what *The Watchtower* has meant to us and has accomplished in our lives. Now it is our wish that it do the same for others. So it is important that we describe *The Watchtower* and present the subscription offer with enthusiasm and conviction. Surely there is no need to hold back in heartily recommending it to anyone.

² During the campaign we encourage you to be acquainted with especially the first article in each issue. It is designed particularly for the *Watchtower* campaign. The title and the scripture that is prominently displayed provide a fine basis for discussion with householders. Having the magazine in your hand as you discuss the subject will make presenting the subscription offer easier.

³ You might rehearse in your mind a few brief introductions that will generally fit almost any of the articles, such as, "Did you know that the Bible says this?" Then read the scripture that is prominently displayed in the article. Or, you might say, "In view of recent developments [identify which ones], you can see why people would be interested in a subject like this." Then refer to the article.

⁴ But does this mean preparing a new presentation twice a month? Actually, it will be simple and refreshing. After a brief introduction, simply refer to the title of the article and read the scripture prominently featured. If there is opportunity, read a choice point from the article, then offer the subscription. Listen carefully to the presentations on the service meeting and you will soon appreciate the simplicity of the idea and enjoy the stimulating variety of a new subject with each issue of the magazine. You yourself will be learning as you impress on your mind another basic Bible thought.

⁵ When engaged in magazine work on Saturday or at other times, would it be good to offer the subscription where special interest seems to be shown? By all means! We often meet people who say, "You know, I really enjoy reading those magazines." Let them know that they can receive them regularly through the mail on a subscription basis. In fact, why not give some thought to this ahead of time and thus be *prepared* to offer the subscription when engaged in the magazine work or on other similar occasions?

⁶ In previous years it has proved beneficial for us to concentrate, during certain months, on bringing the subscription to the attention of certain groups with whom we are acquainted. Why not do the same during this *Watchtower* campaign, giving special attention in January to our relatives and friends? Possibly we will want to present them with a gift subscription. If so, be sure to write "Gift" at the top of the subscription slip, and print your name as the giver at the bottom.

⁷ At all times keep in mind the three new booklets, too, and look for opportunities to get them into people's hands. These may easily open the way for home Bible studies.

⁸ There are things for all of us to be alert to during January. Presenting *The Watchtower* with enthusiasm and conviction is one, and using the booklets well is another. There are sound reasons to believe that Jehovah, by his holy spirit, will richly bless our use of these fine instruments.

Branch Letter *(Cont'd)*

Because of the effectiveness of magazines as instruments to get the truth into the hands of the people the Society's equipment is geared to increased magazine distribution. Three new M.A.N. presses are being installed at Watchtower Farms. These, along with a large Cottrell press recently transferred from the Brooklyn factory, bring the total of presses at Watchtower Farms to fourteen. These are used exclusively to print magazines, and so we are ready for even greater increase.

How about paper? There is no shortage at the present, and so we are ready to do our part in the thirty-eighth annual *Watchtower* subscription campaign. We are confident that Jehovah will richly bless this campaign as he has all others.

Your brothers,
BROOKLYN BRANCH OFFICE

OCTOBER SERVICE REPORT

	Pubs.	Av. Hrs.	Av. R.V.	Av. Bi.St.	Av. Mags.
Sp'l Pios.	698	147.7	55.2	4.7	159.8
Pios.	18,684	99.8	36.7	2.9	105.0
Temp. Pios.	12,846	79.2	22.7	1.2	93.3
Pubs.	514,894	9.2	3.9	.4	13.6
TOTAL	547,122				

Newly Dedicated Ones Baptized: 3,437

UNITED STATES GOAL FOR 1976
588,242 Publishers

THEOCRATIC NEWS

◆ Brothers in Lebanon reported early in November that all Witnesses are safe, although many have had to move to areas where fighting is not going on. They continue to hold meetings but in small groups.

◆ For the first time the brothers in Turkey enjoyed a two-day assembly in Istanbul in complete freedom. Also for the first time Kingdom songs were sung by the 1,208 in attendance.

◆ Increase in Hong Kong continues despite many facing stiff opposition from their families. Some have been turned out of their homes and others beaten. But in October the brothers enjoyed their 17th publisher peak in a row, with 498 reporting.

◆ All settlements in Kenya with more than 5,000 population have been preached to. Brothers report new peak of 1,883 publishers.

Question Box

• Is it proper to write the Society's branch office to ask that lodging be provided with brothers in your own or another country or in the city where the branch office is located?

The work of the Society's branch office is to advance the preaching and teaching of the good news about God's kingdom. Arranging for temporary or permanent accommodations for travelers is a personal matter. No provision has been made at any branch office for supplying information regarding brothers with whom one might find accommodations on a temporary or a permanent basis. Persons wanting such information should obtain it from personal sources instead of writing to the Society or visiting one of its offices for this purpose. However, the Society's branch offices can provide information as to times and places of congregation meetings and, when necessary, can usually offer suggestions as to where public accommodations for lodging are available.

In connection with assemblies, a special department is set up to handle rooming accommodations. Those planning to attend a particular convention should write to the rooming department in the assembly city; however, if the rooming department address is unknown, someone wishing to attend an assembly in another country may mail his room request form to the branch office for forwarding to the convention rooming department.

HOW DID WE DO IN OCTOBER?

A total of 547,122 publishers shared in the preaching and teaching work in October, the highest number out in one month since we established the peak of 560,897 in May 1975. Very encouraging indeed! But what about hours, studies, etc.? Here is something for all of us to think about soberly! Together we devoted 7,727,176 hours to the field service, 750,669 less than October of last year. We conducted 289,339 home Bible studies, which was 21,760 less than last year. Reports from Bible-study-minded publishers show that they are still finding persons in the field with whom they start home Bible studies. If there are lives yet to be saved, then surely we will want to be active, giving such worthy ones the opportunity to hear!

OUR KINGDOM SERVICE

FEBRUARY 1976
Vol. 19, No. 2
FOR UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Dear Kingdom Publishers:

Here we are in 1976 just as eager to preach the good news as at any time before. We still have the assignment from Christ Jesus, "Go . . . make disciples of people of all the nations," and this we are earnestly trying to do. As we know, the three new booklets are designed to aid in this. How many of them have you placed? Have they assisted you to start a new study?

Our brothers in Malawi and in Mozambique do not have all the printed aids that we do, but they continue to praise Jehovah. Even the vicious persecution that has come on them has resulted in the giving of a tremendous witness. (Phil. 1:12-14) We have at hand reports from all parts of the United States, besides Kenya, South Africa, Hong Kong, Malaysia, England, Canada and France, telling what is happening to our brothers in Malawi. Copies of the *Awake!* report on Malawi were furnished to representatives to the United Nations, to all U.S. congressmen and senators. We know of over seventy radio stations that have carried the story. At least ten TV stations have featured it. Thus the world is hearing what is happening to Jehovah's people because they uphold God's kingdom. All of this contributes to the separating of people as foretold in Matthew 25:31-46.

Some time ago, you may recall, we announced the purchase of a large new printing press, but the manufacturers are slow in making delivery. They promised it for June, and then October and then December, and now for February. We hope it will be soon. But, regardless, we will use the equipment that we have and will gladly provide all the literature that you may need. Keep making good use of it in the field while there is still the freedom to do so. Remember, our brothers in Malawi cannot go from house to house, but we can.

Your brothers,
BROOKLYN BRANCH OFFICE

Keep Speaking the Word

1 "As for us, we cannot stop speaking about the things we have seen and heard." With these courageous words the apostles Peter and John stated their position when before a court that demanded they quit talking about Jesus. Satan would like the telling of the good news to cease, but Christians have the obligation to keep speaking the word of God. This is why the apostles refused to stop. Earnestly they prayed: "Jehovah, give attention to their threats, and grant your slaves to keep speaking your word with all boldness." Jehovah backed them up in this speaking.—Acts 4:20, 29, 31.

2 As the first-century Christians carried on their evangelizing work, they became skilled in speaking to others. Following the example of Jesus Christ, they conversed with people in public places as well as in their homes in order to spread the good news. (Acts chapters 3, 10, 17) Do you remember how Philip the evangelizer started a conversation with the Ethiopian eunuch by asking: "Do you actually know what you are reading?" (Acts 8:30) That led to the Ethiopian's accepting Jesus as Messiah. What a marvelous work was accomplished through effective conversations! Though they did not have books and magazines as we do now, with the help of Jehovah's spirit the good news was spread to all parts of the Roman Empire. The early Christians knew the Holy Scriptures well. They referred to God's Word and often quoted directly from it in talking with people about the truth. What a fine example they set!

CONVERSATIONS IDENTIFY US

3 How about us today? Both when in the field service and at other appropriate times, do we carry on effective conversations with people about the truth? Do some people tend to view us merely as literature distributors? We should be recognized as teachers, evangelizers, if we follow the lead of Jesus and the early disciples, should we not? We should be known as people with a message of hope and comfort, people who are ready to share information through interesting and effective conversation. Jehovah's people in some lands have no publications they can place; but they do use the Bible and talk to others, often in public places. And the work grows.

(*Continued on page 3, col. 1*)

WISH YOU HAD MORE TIME?

1 It seems that everyone says that there is not enough time to get everything done. But is it not true that most people try to find time to do the things they really want to do? Do you wish you had more time for theocratic use? How can you find more opportunities for field service? We encourage you to examine your own activities to see what uses up your time.

2 Most of us have to spend time in taking care of our families and supporting them. This puts us in contact with people of the world who may have lots of suggestions on how we can use our spare time. They may be sincere and friendly in offering social activities, but is it in these activities that we want to use our time? Paul counsels: "Go on walking in wisdom toward those on the outside, buying out the opportune time for yourselves." (Col. 4:5) When we have necessary contact with people of the world, are we taking advantage of appropriate opportunities to talk to them about the Kingdom message? By giving thought to it, perhaps you will find more opportunities to tell the good news, when it is appropriate, while engaging in your daily routine of work.

3 Perhaps you want to find more time to be with your family and to do things with your children. Have you thought of making arrangements for the whole family to spend more time in the field service together? It is good for children to see their parents serving Jehovah and to listen to how they talk about the truth. Doing things together in this way helps to keep the family close together.

WORKING WITH GROUPS

4 Meetings for field service are very good, but they can also use up valuable time. It is helpful if the conductor prepares ahead of time and knows exactly what is to be done. Usually ten minutes spent in such a meeting is sufficient time. There can be a brief consideration of the text for the day, a few pointed suggestions on the current presentation, a word about where each publisher or group will work, and a prayer.

5 Sometimes, when arriving in the territory, valuable minutes are lost in trying to decide who will work with whom, and where. If

(*Continued on page 4, col. 1*)

YOUR SERVICE MEETINGS

WEEK STARTING FEBRUARY 1

16 min: Song 4. Introduction. Comment on February theme, "Stay in the Way of Life with a Christian Conscience." (1 Pet. 3:16; see April 1, 1975, *Watchtower*.) Include reference to how proper understanding of God's Word together with a good conscience will cause us to make wise decisions in life. Keeping our dedication close in mind will help us do God's will. Good personal study habits will help us train conscience properly. Participating regularly in field service helps us keep good conscience and stay in way of life. —1 Tim. 1:5, 19.

15 min: "Wish You Had More Time?" Questions and answers. Include any appropriate local suggestions on how to make the most practical use of time in the field service or how to schedule and organize better. Offer to be of help to anyone who wishes to go over his schedule. Encourage using an hour or two more a month in field service.

19 min: Analyzing Your Own Presentation. Talk showing it is good to sit down and analyze our presentation from time to time, on occasions doing so with others who have success in what they are doing. Do we get householder involved? One way is to put magazine or book in householder's hands. When speaking about a feature of the publication, point it out. Makes impression.

Are you observant? Are there children in the home? Is there an ill person or invalid? Is there anything indicating the person's religious belief? Learn to be flexible and tactful in presentation, taking advantage of what you see and trying to make your presentation meaningful. Select article or subject and scriptures that might have most appeal to person's thinking. Preparation comes in here; know what is in the magazine. The more you know, the more you can say to convince.

Sometimes several people are listening. Do not ignore any. Try to cover interest of everyone. Let each one examine the magazine.

Demonstration: Two publishers in service together talk about how they will make presentation with first article in *Watchtower*. Come to house and speak to mother, two children present in background playing. Publisher sees children and so makes presentation with reference to first article in February 8 *Awake!*, which involves children. After leaving house explains to other publisher that she had read the magazine and knew what to use if situation came up; therefore changed from planned presentation.

Chairman encourages all to prepare well and thus enjoy service more. Suggest that some publishers or family groups may find it helpful to go over their presentations together before going out.

10 min: Concluding Comments. Suggest that during February we try to get subscriptions from workmates or schoolmates. Mention progress, number of new subscriptions since January 1 and new Bible studies started. Suggest bringing *Truth* book next week. Song 55.

WEEK STARTING FEBRUARY 8

15 min: Song 92. Introduction and day's text. Comment on congregation field report for January and Branch Letter.

15 min: Have You Called Back? Discuss use of House-to-House Record. Especially practical this winter. Want to make a return visit soon wherever booklets are placed. Every publisher should use Record or personal notebook, or calls will probably not be made. Value of making notes that will help you when you go back. Can use more than one line on House-to-House Record for each person. When making notations after first call ask yourself which subject would interest person most; write that down so you will not forget. Some publishers have noted that person was ill or had a problem, and then on follow-up call they opened up with query as to health, etc. This personal interest makes good impression and builds up friendly relationship. Good to be friendly and conversational when visiting again. Ask audience how many have gone back where booklets were placed, also what points they found effective in their territory. How did they prepare before going? Better to have something definite to say, not just, "Did you read the booklet?" or, "How did you like it?"

Have brief refresher demonstration on starting a study with one of the booklets. Chairman follows with invitation to those who have not started study or have problem with this to speak with him or Bible study overseer following meeting for suggestions on making arrangements to go with someone to gain experience. Encourage all to carry House-to-House Record and use it regularly.

18 min: "Presenting the Good News —Another Way." Discuss article and follow with demonstration showing publishers selecting key texts from chapter of *Truth* book and noting them on slip of paper to put in Bible. Two publishers should talk to each other, selecting key texts, so audience can follow along in book and see why they chose those texts for making presentation. Then follow up with demonstration of two going to a home and using it to consider theme. Chairman encourages all to try selecting texts on a chapter theme during coming week and then to try to speak to someone on subject.

12 min: Concluding Comments. Mention advisability of carrying additional publications when doing magazine work. If working with car, good to have extra copy of Bible and a few books in car in case interested person requests them. Mention which issue of *Watchtower* to be used next week in meeting. Song 25.

WEEK STARTING FEBRUARY 15
Communicate Through Effective Conversation

15 min: Song 11. Introduction. Show need to communicate with others through effective conversation. Use first two paragraphs of "Keep Speaking the Word." In Bible times conversation, talking to people, was chief means of spreading good news. Marketplaces were often used as places to exchange information and news through conversation. (Acts 17:16, 17) Jesus and early Christians also conversed with people in their homes in order to spread good news.—Luke 19:5, 6; Acts 20:20, 27; Matt. 10:11, 12.

20 min: "Keep Speaking the Word." Start with paragraph 3. Questions and answers. Ask brothers who have had success locally what questions or points they use to arouse interest and to get conversation going, reasoning with the people.

Demonstration: Publisher presents magazines, but with no theme or attempt at conversation. Householder refuses. How could he improve? Chairman highlights need to get conversation going, get householder involved. Follow up with another demonstration showing publisher starting conversation with person who refused literature; sees what is on mind of householder, then leaves person with good things to think about.

Chairman concludes, encouraging all to make effort to open conversation about Bible truth with someone sometime during every day and build up ability to express self on truth. Also, if persons have literature already, it may be practical to offer to consider what they have or even to start a study by making conversation.

15 min: Review latest *Watchtower* magazine. Often been encouraged to know what is in the magazines, read them first. Then have good points to use in conversing at doors. Read an article and talk about it with someone at home or a brother or even a stranger. Do you have main points still in mind after reading? Can you tell someone what you read? If necessary, you could even put magazine down and talk to self about article in practice session. Chairman should have some publishers well prepared to comment on articles they have read (without magazine or notes in hand), but let all audience share in program at this point. In articles highlight main points needed to carry on coherent conversation on subject. Encourage all publishers to try to do this with an article in next magazine they receive in mail, and after practicing use information in field service.

10 min: Concluding Comments. Include accounts report. Remind brothers to prepare for next week's consideration of February 15 *Watchtower,* bringing copy next week. Song 27.

WEEK STARTING FEBRUARY 22

10 min: Song 23. Introduction. Comments on Theocratic News, appropriate Announcements and Question Box.

30 min: "God Wants People to Live." Article from February 15 *Watchtower*. Make up questions for each paragraph. Appropriate texts can be looked up in Bibles and some paragraphs in magazine read in summary. After finishing article ask for expressions from audience on what this material means to them personally or how it helped them.

10 min: Our Field Service. Experiences on subscription campaign to date, as well as starting studies in the booklets. Comments may be made on contents of latest magazines for use in field.

10 min: Concluding Comments. Hearing from any who might have expression on success in using suggestions to start conversations with people during last week. Song 64.

Suggested Presentation

The theme of the first article in each issue of *The Watchtower* and the scripture prominently featured therein.

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Keep Speaking the Word *(Cont'd)*

4 While many publishers are adept at starting conversations on Bible topics, others would appreciate suggestions as to how they can improve their ability. Practice and experience are needed in order to be really effective, but a few suggestions here might prove helpful.

5 First, we should be *genuinely interested* in people and their welfare. That is why we spread the good news, is it not? We want to help others to learn the truth so they can worship Jehovah and enjoy the blessed promises found in his Word. (Rom. 10:13-15) Do your attitude, your tone of voice, your facial expressions and words reflect genuine friendliness and interest in the householder? This is a key to effective conversation.

6 Also, it helps to take into account the customs of the people, or things that are of special interest to the local populace. Then, like Paul, you can tactfully include these in your conversation. (Acts 17:22, 23, 28) Take note of local happenings that are reported in the newspaper or on the radio. Current news items are effective in starting conversations, because these are on the minds of people and they may have a reaction that they will freely express. It also helps if we learn how to ask viewpoint questions in a tactful way to determine the person's thoughts or interests, but being careful not to ask embarrassing questions. Once the conversation gets started, of course, it is not hard to work in the good news. Always keep in mind your objective so that the discussion will lead into a witness about the Kingdom.

QUESTIONS CAN START CONVERSATIONS

7 What kind of questions might we use to open up a conversation? Consideration must be given to the type of person and the area in which we work. Questions that have been used successfully in the field by some are:

Do you believe that a book written by man could, nevertheless, be God's message to mankind?

What do you think about the origin of our life? Is it from a source higher than man, and from one to whom we are responsible?

What do you think is the *greatest problem* facing mankind?

Do you think that it is possible for us to enjoy the best from life today and to have a secure hope for the future without an accurate knowledge of our Maker (or life source)?

Do you believe that religion serves as a real force for righteousness in the lives of people today?

Do you see any connection between the tremendous loss of morality in society today and the teaching of evolution in the schools and colleges?

8 These questions may prove to be effective for you. On the other hand, you may find that other questions or remarks appeal to people in your area. Use whatever brings results in getting a conversation started. In addition to selecting a question, however, be sure to have in mind a few interesting facts on the subject as well as two or three related scriptures. This is necessary in order to keep your discussion going. You can get texts on many themes from *"Make Sure."*

9 Remember, conversation is a 'two-way street.' We really must be good listeners also. If we ask for a householder's viewpoint, then we really are obligated to listen to his viewpoint, are we not? *If we listen,* then we know more about what he thinks and can use this as a basis for appealing to the householder. We are thus in a good position to share thoughts from God's Word in a way that will interest the householder.

10 What should we do if the householder recognizes us as one of Jehovah's witnesses and immediately says that he does not want any literature? Perhaps the householder thinks that our only goal is to leave magazines or books with people. Tactfully try to start an interesting conversation and thus plant some seeds of truth. Try to give the householder some Scriptural truth to think about. Perhaps you can leave him in a much better frame of mind for the next call. Literature can be used later on.

11 Try it. Start right away to strike up conversations with people that you meet in the house-to-house work and in other places. Giving people some encouraging words to think about will bring you encouragement also. At the end of each day when you think over what you have done, if you have told the good news to someone during that day, you will have a feeling of satisfaction and pleasure.—Col. 1:5, 6.

Announcements

◆ Literature offer, February through April: *Watchtower* subscription, with three booklets, for $1.50, or subscriptions for both magazines, with six booklets, for $3.00. If subscription offer is not accepted, we can offer two magazines and the three new booklets for 25c.

◆ On Saturday, April 17, the Bethel home and factory and Watchtower Farms will be closed for spring cleaning; so there will be no arrangement for tours on that day.

◆ In the June *Kingdom Ministry,* announcement was made concerning new identification cards to be issued to all baptized publishers and it was requested that old cards be destroyed. Some congregations have not followed through on this yet, so this reminder is given to the elders. Publishers should not be carrying the old identification cards. The new identification cards are available at two for one cent. If your congregation has not yet ordered them, please do so now.

◆ Recently a number of reports have been received from congregations in this country about persons who have come to the congregation and asked for money, but later proved to be impostors. It seems good to mention this now and to warn the brothers to be on the watch for such persons. If someone comes and says he is in need, it is wise to ascertain the location of the congregation from which he came and inquire of an elder there to see if the person is telling the truth; also get a recommendation from the former congregation before giving money to such a stranger.

◆ New Publications Available:

One World, One Government—Under God's Sovereignty —Portuguese
Reading Aid —Italian

◆ Available Again in U.S.A.:

Theocratic Ministry School Guidebook —Portuguese
The Truth That Leads to Eternal Life —Arabic, Polish

◆ If a congregation must change its permanent shipping address for literature, please indicate this *IN A LETTER* ACCOMPANYING THE NEXT LITERATURE ORDER BLANK, not by merely writing a new address on the next order blank. Neither the name of the addressee nor the street address should be changed because of rotation of elders. (See *Cost List,* page 4, paragraph 15; page 6, paragraph 26.) If the permanent address for congregation mail *MUST CHANGE* in a letter state why and give new address.

NOVEMBER SERVICE REPORT

	Pubs.	Av. Hrs.	Av. R.V.	Av. Bi.St.	Av. Mags.
Sp'l Pios.	675	152.4	51.1	4.9	113.3
Pios.	18,576	95.6	32.0	2.9	79.5
Temp. Pios.	11,386	76.4	17.5	1.1	57.9
Pubs.	546,725	10.4	2.9	.4	10.5
TOTAL	577,362				

Newly Dedicated Ones Baptized: 4,356

UNITED STATES GOAL FOR 1976
588,242 Publishers

HOW DID WE DO IN NOVEMBER?

How marvelous it was to see 577,362 sharing in Kingdom service and the disciple-making work during November! We exceeded the previous peak in publishers, May 1975, by 16,465! Yes, honest-hearted ones continue responding to the good news of the Kingdom, and what a pleasure it is to help them. In all, we have now had six *Kingdom News* distribution campaigns, and during each of these months new peaks in publishers were reached.

Another wholesome development was that publishers averaged 10.4 hours during November, a nice increase from the 9.2 hour average of October. The more time we spend in field service, the more people have opportunity to hear the truth. As all of us utilize every opportunity to start Bible studies with the use of the three new booklets, surely more people will be attracted to the truth and the Christian way of life.

PRESENTING THE GOOD NEWS

Another Way

1 In order to carry out our commission to make disciples, we endeavor to start home Bible studies with those who show interest. The Bible study work has been effective in assisting many thousands to become true disciples of Jesus Christ. However, what might we do where someone displays some interest in the Bible and yet shows resistance to becoming involved in a formal study of some publication?

2 Here is where the Christian teacher can learn to be flexible, adaptable, ready to cover the study material in another way. The apostle Paul was successful in being flexible, and he recommends his example to us.—1 Cor. 9:19-23; 11:1.

3 When someone is willing to discuss *only* the Bible, but not with the aid of another book, some publishers have found it very effective to go along with the wishes of such a person, and they convey the good news successfully. One way of doing this is to jot down on notepaper that will fit into your Bible six to eight key scriptures from a chapter of the *Truth* book. Most of us are very familiar with this publication. We know the Scripture texts and understand them well. So if we use the key scriptures from one of the chapters and have the context well in mind, we can carry on a lively conversation with the interested person based on these key Bible texts. We ought to endeavor to guide the conversation, keeping it progressive and on the main points brought out in the Scripture references, while at the same time allowing the other person to express himself. In handling the call in this way we will really be covering information brought out in the book, theme by theme, but the householder will not feel tied to a formal study.

4 If you are experiencing difficulties with starting studies in your territory you may wish to try this way of teaching where someone is willing to have a discussion.

Wish You Had More Time? *(Cont'd)*

traveling is involved, why not make all these arrangements while on the way?

6 If you work scattered territories, do you have several people sitting in the car waiting for one or two? In many cases publishers can be dropped off by the driver and then picked up a little later.

7 Winter presents problems, and weather may at times disrupt plans for field service. What can be done? If we get snowed in, would it not be good to use the time we had set aside for field service to speak to someone on the telephone or to write some letters to stir up interest in the truth? This is making good use of the time. Health problems, too, may interfere with our getting out, but, again, we may be able to write to people or mail out some literature and thus not lose out altogether on having a share in the service.

8 There is a limit as to how much time we have for preaching the good news, so we like to get the most out of the time we can serve. For example, if, when we are out in the field service, we notice that there are many not-at-homes, is there another time when we could go out, when we might find more people, perhaps in the late afternoons or in the evenings? If we find that we are doing our magazine work on the streets when few people are there, could we accomplish more, contacting many more people, by working in another place? Also, do we approach people and speak to them? These are a few of the things to consider when we ask ourselves whether we are just counting time or really making our time count.

9 The body of elders may wish to discuss how the schedule of meetings affects the congregation's field service. When do most publishers go in the field service? Do publishers get into the service on Sundays? Some congregations may find that an adjustment of times of meetings will allow for more field service and still be convenient for the majority of the congregation. —See *Organization,* page 103.

10 Organized people get the most out of the time they have available. Preparation is vital. Each one of us should have a schedule. We do well to ask ourselves: 'What do I really want to do? Do I want to serve Jehovah? If so, what is a good goal as to field service to set for myself? Can I try for a full day instead of just an hour?' Talk it over in the family. If we make an examination with these things in mind, we may find that, indeed, we do have more time for field service than we had thought. How wonderful it would be if, by doing this, each one of us could find another hour or two a month to add to the public praise that we give to Jehovah.—2 Tim. 4:5.

THEOCRATIC NEWS

◆ **On November 29 and 30 a new assembly hall with a capacity of 1,300 was dedicated in Madrid, Spain, for use by the 85 congregations in the Madrid area. Brother F. W. Franz was invited to participate, and he commented that when he first went to Spain in 1947 there was only a handful of publishers in Madrid. Now 5,691 attended the special dedication program of the first assembly hall in Spain. The Spanish branch reports a new peak of 32,184 publishers.**

Question Box

- Is it proper for one of Jehovah's witnesses to receive treatment and care at a hospital operated by a religious organization?

Various religious organizations operate hospitals, which provide medical treatment and care. Generally such hospitals are not established for the outright promotion of false religion. They may have been incorporated originally to serve a religious organization as a source of income. Today, however, some hospitals are religious in their name only, whereas others are still partially staffed by members of the clergy.

If one of Jehovah's witnesses requires hospital care, he must make his own decision as to whether he will go to a hospital that may possibly be connected with a religious organization. The conscience of one might permit him to do so, but the conscience of another may prevent him from doing so. There are certain circumstances that may have a bearing on one's decision and it is good to consider these.

For example, a hospital with a religious name may be the only one in the immediate area. Or, if there is another hospital nearby, the one with possible religious connections may have a reputation for superior service. Also, such a hospital with a religious name may be the *only* one equipped to provide the particular treatment needed, or it may be the only hospital where your doctor or surgeon is able to handle cases. Also, sometimes hospitals with religious connections may respect your viewpoint as a Christian on the use of blood, whereas some other private or municipal hospitals may not. So these are some factors that you may have to consider when deciding what hospital to use.

If you do decide to use a hospital with religious connections, you might view it merely as paying for services rendered. You might view it as if the religious organization were operating a certain business, and in purchasing a service from such business you would not be making a direct, voluntary contribution to the support of a false religion. You would merely be paying for a product or a service.

Of course, as a Christian, in such circumstances you must definitely see to it that you do not engage in any acts of false worship. Also, you could not ascribe the usual religious titles, like "Father" or "Sister," to individuals who may work at or visit the hospital. You would have to see to it that the matter is strictly a business arrangement in which you are receiving treatment and service, and nothing more.

So, each one will have to consider all the circumstances involved and then make his own decision as to which hospital he will use.—Gal. 6:5.

OUR KINGDOM SERVICE

MARCH 1976
Vol. 19, No. 3
FOR UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Dear Kingdom Publishers:

For us March and April always prove to be busy and happy months. We all look forward to the special activities arranged. Have you considered temporary pioneering for a month, or even for two weeks? It will be an ideal time for many to enroll as temporary pioneers, especially young folks who will be on school vacation for a few days. Last March over 9,000 enrolled, and in April, over 17,000. Perhaps many more will be able to serve as temporary pioneers this year.

Why not talk it over as a family or with several others in the congregation? Parental encouragement may be just what is needed to help many young ones to taste the joys of temporary pioneering. One young sister wrote the Society: "With much encouragement from my family and with Jehovah's blessing, I found that I could pioneer a half day of each school day. It really sharpened my appreciation of the privilege and joy of serving Jehovah and helping people in these last days. In addition it has served as a protection from the influences of worldly schoolmates."

Yes, pioneer service brings blessings! Recently, after a zone visit to the branches in Mexico and Central America, Brother Knorr particularly mentioned that missionaries from early classes of Gilead are still serving there. That means that they have enjoyed full-time service, as pioneers and in Bethel homes, for over thirty years! In Mexico, Brother Knorr said, 81,371 persons are now publishing.

While some of us may not be able to be pioneers, all of us can continue to encourage the youths and share with them in the increased service activities at this time of the year. May your blessings be many.

Your brothers,
BROOKLYN BRANCH OFFICE

Encourage the Young People Among Us

1 There is a large percentage of youthful ones in the congregations. These young people certainly need and deserve the encouragement of older ones, and their help in making advancement.

2 Jehovah God himself views with great interest and joy the young people who serve faithfully. (Luke 18:16) Remember how he backed up young Daniel and his companions. They were transported by an enemy king to a faraway land, where paganism and nationalism were dominant. But did these young people break integrity or keep silent as to their belief in Jehovah's sovereignty? Did Jehovah forsake them? The Scripture account says: "As for these children, the four of them, to them the true God gave knowledge and insight in all writing and wisdom." As a result it became evident even to the king that the wisdom that they had was far superior to that of all the priests of Babylon.—Dan. 1:17-20.

3 We can be sure that, while those four Jewish boys were still at home, their parents had given special care to see that they developed spiritual strength, for the family arrangement was one of the most important features of Israelite life. Parents and other adult members of the congregation, are you helping the young persons among you to become real praisers of God? What can you do?

4 Do not take their efforts for granted. Young people have proved to be a real asset to congregations. Many, by their fine conduct, have 'adorned the teaching of our Savior, God.' (Titus 2:6-10) This has given an effective witness to schoolteachers and others. Youths who manifest Christian behavior at conventions have glorified Jehovah and have brought greater respect for Jehovah's witnesses in the community. Many young persons also do well in field service, even aiding others to take their stand for the truth. Commend them for the good they do.

5 Ask yourself: 'When was the last time that I stopped to talk to the young folks at our Kingdom Hall, not merely to say "Hello," but showing genuine interest?' In conversation with these young people you can help them to set attainable goals—not too high for them to reach at their age. It may be the goal of preparing comments for meetings, beginning to use the Bible in the field or witnessing to at least one person each week at school. Many may be able to be temporary pioneers, particularly during school vacation periods.

6 Also, in order that young people might realize that they are a recognized, appreciated part of the congregation, give them things to

(*Continued on page 8, col. 1*)

Engage in Memorial-Season Activity

1 Once every year Jehovah's people have an occasion for very special observance. This is the Memorial of the death of our Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus has been resurrected into the heavens. Having there presented the value of his sacrifice, he owns all humankind. As God's high priest he administers life-giving benefits to all who call upon God with faith in his sacrifice. We can look for his help in every time of need.—Heb. 4:16.

2 Certainly such a provision of our Father Jehovah is something to be thankful for, and the commemoration of this sacrifice with all it means is something to advertise to the widest possible extent.

3 To help truth-seeking persons to know about God's life-giving provision, special arrangements have been made for this Memorial season. On Sunday, March 28, seventeen days before the celebration of the Lord's Evening Meal, there will be a special public talk on the very appropriate subject "Who Is Jesus Christ, so that We All Need Him?" Let's do our utmost to enable others to attend the public talk as well as the Memorial on April 14.

4 The April 15 *Watchtower* also highlights our need for Jesus Christ. Free copies of this special issue will be sent to each congregation—three for each Bible study being held by congregation publishers and pioneers. If you are conducting Bible studies, you will receive, through the Bible study overseer, three copies for each of your studies. As you give them to the Bible student, encourage him to give them to people at work, to relatives, neighbors and so forth. Aid the new one to see the need of rousing in others interest in Jesus Christ. Perhaps the student

(*Continued on page 7, col. 1*)

YOUR SERVICE MEETINGS

WEEK STARTING FEBRUARY 29

Appreciating and Encouraging the Youths in Our Midst

15 min: Song 73. Introduction. Interview of young ones of various ages. While expressions should be in one's own words, at rehearsal chairman can help those interviewed to get thoughts well in mind. Such questions as these might be used: Why do you like to come to meetings? How have family discussions helped you to come to know Jehovah? How has instruction at home and at the meetings helped you in school? Why are you glad that you are on Jehovah's side? Why do you feel that it is important to share in field service?

18 min: "Encourage the Young People Among Us." Talk and audience discussion. Acknowledge what young folks are doing in the congregation and point out opportunities for them. Outline any service arrangements the congregation has made in their behalf.

12 min: Youths, Keep Pioneer Service as Your Goal! Discussion of Branch Letter, highlighting how youths can be temporary pioneers during school vacations (some even while going to school) and can use this experience as steppingstone to goal of being regular pioneers. Temporary pioneering also affords opportunity for adults to increase their disciple-making work.

15 min: Closing comments. Include experiences of young folks who are making opportunities to preach and conduct studies. (If time allows, relate experiences involving young publishers, on pages 6, 83 and 87 of *1976 Yearbook*. Include item on "Bethel Service." Song 39.

WEEK STARTING MARCH 7

14 min: Song 30. Introduction. (Have audience read scriptures and comment on them.) Highlight privilege we have to share in fulfillment of Matthew 24:14. Others cannot 'call upon the name of Jehovah' unless there are preachers sent forth. (Rom. 10:10-15) Now is the time to invite others to take of "life's water free." (Rev. 22:17) Include recent experiences had in house-to-house work.

18 min: Presenting the subscription offer. Discussion and demonstration. Give reasons why we desire *The Watchtower* to go into homes regularly on subscription basis. Pick out articles from recent issues to illustrate fine information going to subscribers. Present the subscription positively. As stressed in February issue of *Our Kingdom Service*, we want to communicate with the people and get them to express themselves so we know their thinking and can better reason with them. You know the value of *The Watchtower*. With conviction, point out why others should have it.

How can March 15 issue of *The Watchtower* be used effectively? (Perhaps experienced teen-age publisher might demonstrate.)

Theme: Will Things Get Better?
(Title of opening article)

"Good morning. My name is . . . I am making brief calls on neighbors this morning to share with them God's promise of a world without crime [other conditions could be used, if preferred]. Of course, conditions are getting so bad today that many sincere people are saying, 'Where is all of this heading? Will things ever get better?' Perhaps you have given this some thought, too. [Permit reply, if person inclined.] Did you know that Jesus foretold the very things we are experiencing today? Note his words here as quoted from the Bible. [Hand extra copy of March 15 issue to householder and, after directing attention to quotation of Luke 21:25, 26, 28 on page 163, read from your copy.] Note, while Jesus knew these bad times were coming, he gave a real basis for hope. Things will not just keep getting worse with no hope of relief. This article in *The Watchtower* [point to title of article] discusses how God will soon remove these wicked conditions and bring peace and happiness to mankind. Notice what is stated in conclusion on page 164. [Read next-to-last paragraph of article.] This article is a sample of what is published in *The Watchtower* every two weeks. I am sure you would enjoy having it come to you regularly so you may benefit from its encouraging message. I can arrange for twenty-four issues to come to you during the year for only $1.50."

Householder does not subscribe, but accepts two magazines and three booklets. Ask audience: What else should concern for the person move us to do? Where interest is shown, be sure to try to start a study, whether subscription is obtained or not.

13 min: "Give Aid Through Book Study Groups." Discuss with audience by questions and answers.

15 min: Concluding comments. Briefly summarize what was learned at meeting tonight. Emphasize that we are interested in *people*, also sharing in house-to-house work to find them. Discuss highlights of pages 258 and 259 of *1976 Yearbook*, showing how all can 'add luster' to the truth.—Titus 2:10, *NE*. Song 33.

WEEK STARTING MARCH 14

10 min: Song 37. Spiritual benefits in attending an assembly. (Talk) Consider first part of insert down to section "Our Christian Conduct." Include information on recommended assembly city and dates for congregation, as determined by elders from chart.

15 min: Conduct at assemblies. (Questions and answers) Discuss material in insert from "Our Christian Conduct" down to "Rooming." Show how much of the counsel applies also at circuit assemblies and at our own congregation meetings. (Mention that publishers should save insert; it will be considered in coming months.)

25 min: Reflecting the "new personality" in every way. Discussion of Ephesians 4:25-32. Introduce with reference to need to "put on the new personality," in verse 24. (1) Read verse 25. Why is being truthful important in our relationship with one another? (2) Read verses 26 and 27. (a) How can one be "wrathful" and yet not sin? (b) Why should the cause for anger be eliminated quickly? (3) Read verse 28. How should the Christian obtain necessities and things to share with those in need? (4) Read verse 29. How can proper use of the tongue be upbuilding? (5) Read verse 30. How can one 'grieve' Jehovah's spirit? (6) Read verses 31 and 32. (a) How will kindness, compassion and a forgiving attitude help 'take away from you' bitterness and abusive speech? (b) How has Jehovah set the perfect example? Show how this relates to our Kingdom service.

10 min: Concluding comments. Encourage all to share fully in disciple-making. Accounts report. Song 94.

WEEK STARTING MARCH 21

15 min: Song 42. Introduction. Discuss with audience page 121 and paragraph 1 on page 122 of *Organization* book. Look up scriptures. Highlight importance of preaching with a view to making disciples. If some recently started Bible studies, have experiences related. (Prepare these in advance.)

15 min: Presenting subscription offer. Briefly review points made in front-page article in February issue of *Our Kingdom Service* on need for effectively communicating with people. Emphasize that literature placements are not our main goal, but are a means to help people learn truth. We are interested in people. By adapting the presentation appearing under the service meeting for the week of March 7, have experienced publisher demonstrate offer, using opening article in the April 1 issue. Publisher obtains subscriptions; tries to start study, but householder too busy then; time set for later in week. Chairman concludes with encouragement to all to present subscriptions and to make return visits on all who show interest.

15 min: "Presenting the Good News—Continuing Studies Started with Booklets." Audience participation. Demonstrate points in article.

15 min: Concluding comments. Talk on paragraphs 1-4 of article on "Engage in Memorial-Season Activity." Discuss how all can assist new ones to come to special talk on March 28. Song 43.

WEEK STARTING MARCH 28

Appreciating Our Christian Meetings

18 min: Song 5. Meetings—Always Important to God's People. Talk and audience participation. In Moses' time all, including children, were present. (Deut. 29:10, 11) Under Law, parents took much time teaching children. (Deut. 6: 5-9) At festivals Israelites heard much; also at meeting every seven years *all* listened to reading of entire Law. (Deut. 31:10-13) After Babylonian exile, Jews regularly met in synagogues, there to give consideration to God's commandments. Christians follow this pattern in their meetings. (See *Aid*, pp. 1564, 1565.) Briefly show purpose of our congregation meetings.

12 min: Stay Close to Congregation. Talk; involve audience. All of us know need to be led by God's spirit. (Rom. 8:9) God's spirit active when brothers gathered together for discussion of spiritual things. (Rom. 1:11, 12) While we incite one another to love and fine works on different occasions, what is best time? Is it not usually at meetings? (Read, discuss Hebrews 10:23-25.) Discuss ways in which we may strengthen and encourage others at meetings; include need to prepare for and comment at meetings. Need to encourage those in our book study group and those with whom we are conducting home Bible studies to attend meetings. Cover Question Box.

20 min: Special Effort to Help All Attend Memorial. (Paragraphs 5-7 of article "Engage in Memorial-Season Activity.") Audience participation.

Discuss scriptures that may be used in calling on others, inviting them to attend: Commanded by Lord. (Luke 22:19) To know Jesus as 'bread of life' essential for life. (John 6:51) His sacrifice a basis for removal of sins and approach to God. As High Priest he can help us. (Heb. 4:15, 16) May include demonstration of how publisher invites someone to come, what to discuss.

Build appreciation among brothers for Memorial: Must have due respect, understanding its purpose; should be at peace with brothers (1 Cor. 11:17-20); must discern that emblems represent blood and body of Jesus Christ that was offered for us.—1 Cor. 11:27-29.

10 min: Concluding comments. Song 99.

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"Sacred Service" District Assemblies

NEARLY a million worshipers of Jehovah and interested persons in the United States are looking forward to the summer of 1976 with keen anticipation. Why? Because of the spiritual blessings they know are in store for them at the district assemblies being arranged. Ninety-four assemblies are planned for the continental United States this summer.

Think of what it will mean to attend one of these assemblies! While here you are away from most contact with worldly people and can enjoy to the full the association of your brothers. Their speech is wholesome and they desire to improve their spirituality. That is one thing that makes assemblies of Jehovah's witnesses so outstanding, for at them one can witness Christian principles in operation on a major scale. Besides receiving counsel and instruction through the convention program, everyone present will be a recipient of the spirit of the occasion. Also, God's spirit will be there. This one fact alone makes attending worth while.

Furthermore, to see thousands of people working together out of love, willingly giving of themselves without pay, is a profound blessing in this day and age. To behold men, women and children singing together, learning and praying together is uplifting and faith-strengthening. What joy these large gatherings bring to all of Jehovah's people! Will you, too, be present this summer to show your appreciation? Our prayer is that everyone will be able to attend an assembly. The following information is being provided to assist you to benefit to the full from the fine provisions made at each convention.

OUR CHRISTIAN CONDUCT: How we conduct ourselves while attending assemblies is very important. Not only does good conduct make things pleasant for others, but it can serve as a fine witness to outsiders. (1 Pet. 2:12) Any who accept our invitation to attend the assembly ought to be able to see by our conduct that we truly reflect unselfish love and concern for others. Thus it is good to remind ourselves of the importance of being thoughtful and considerate. We are Jehovah's people. When we get together we want to reflect this fact wholeheartedly, both at the assembly grounds and throughout the assembly city. (Col. 3:23) By the way we conduct ourselves we bring honor or dishonor to Jehovah's great name. By being patient, cooperative and taking the lead "in showing honor to one another," we will cause others to say, "God is really among you." (Rom. 12:10; 1 Cor. 14:25) Remember, Jesus said: "By this all will know that you are my disciples, if you have love among yourselves." (John 13:35) Love, unselfish consideration for others, is essential in operating the assemblies of Jehovah's people.

A number of situations arise at conventions where we have the opportunity to manifest our Christian love and consideration for others. For example, the Society has for a number of years worked diligently to arrange for convention sites having ample capacity to seat all who were expected to attend. At most assemblies this has worked out successfully.

However, it has been noted that even at the many facilities where there are far more seats available than those actually in attendance, there still has often been a problem for persons desiring to find a seat in which to sit. Many times they have been unable to find a seat because someone has needlessly put something on the seat beside him either to save it or to serve as a place to keep his belongings. How thoughtful and considerate, yes, loving, to keep our belongings under our own seat, on our lap or in the checkroom so that those who are looking for seats will know what seats are available without having to ask as they walk along the aisles. It shows courtesy to occupy *only one seat.*

A balanced view, of course, would indicate that in certain instances some could save a seat or two for good reason. Families may need seats together; volunteer workers may be coming to sit with their families soon after the sessions begin; individuals may momentarily leave to go to the washroom; also, interested persons may be coming to occupy seats next to Witnesses who have arranged to sit with them. The loving thing in such instances would be to save the seats for a reasonable length of time. However, when we place objects on blocks of seats for persons in our congregation or others who are capable of finding seats for themselves, is this showing love for those who really need seats at that time? Is this "keeping an eye, not in personal interest upon just your own matters, but also in personal interest upon those of the others"?—Phil. 2:4.

In the past, seats have sometimes been saved and never occupied during an entire session. People were forced to stand or go to a place where they could not see or even hear well, thereby missing that whole portion of the program. Thus, if we are holding a seat or two and the session starts, our Christian conscience should move us to relinquish any seats we are saving, unless we know that those who were sitting there will return soon. Please cooperate with the attendants in these matters.

It has also been observed that at some facilities numbers of brothers have arranged to be at the gates or doors of the convention building by five or six o'clock in the morning so that they would be there when the building opened and could rush in to save whole sections of seats, very often the very choicest ones, by laying magazines and books on them. When we stop to think about this, could we say that doing this truly reflects well upon our Christian personality? Truly, at an assembly of Jehovah's people the principle prevailing should be that "love . . . does not behave indecently, does not look for its own interests." (1 Cor. 13:4, 5) How refreshing it is, instead, to see others, including younger persons, freely offer their seats to elderly or infirm persons who may not have found a place to sit and listen. By such loving concern for others we honor our God, Jehovah, who has taught us what love really is.

During sessions, it is important to remember others around us and to be considerate. If we engage in conversation with family and friends while the program is going on, we not only miss vital instruction ourselves but also disturb others nearby. Endeavor to plan each day's activities so that, when the sessions begin, you will be in your seat and ready to give full attention to the spiritual food that

Jehovah has arranged. If a small child begins to cry, and you are unable to quiet him after a few moments, it shows loving consideration to take him to an area where he will not disturb others.

When children are sitting with their parents at assemblies and paying attention, this is a fine thing to see. But this is not something that can be left to chance. As parents, do we always arrange to have our children sit with us and keep them with us, even before and after the sessions? Or do we just let them roam around the assembly grounds at will? Attendants have had to speak to such children and even take them to their parents and explain what they have done. Even children of Witness parents have a few times thoughtlessly or deliberately committed acts of vandalism or involved themselves in mischief that has harmed persons and property. This, of course, results in detracting considerably from the good name of Jehovah and his people, to the point of actually at times bringing reproach on the organization, thus requiring that local elders look into such matters. So why not make a real effort to keep your children with you at the assembly and help them to enjoy its blessings even more by your loving companionship? (Deut. 6:7; 31:12) In this way the good conduct of our children will also bring praise to Jehovah.

There are other occasions also when our good conduct at assemblies reflects favorably on us and our Creator, Jehovah. If others are waiting in line at a food or literature counter, how fine it is to avoid crowding in front, but rather wait patiently for our turn or even perhaps offer our place to someone in need of extra consideration. Occasionally we may see a new person or a child who does not display Christian qualities as fully as we feel he should, but instead of losing our Christian composure, we should look upon it as an opportunity to set the example for such ones in Christian kindness and patience. We realize that they lack experience and it is our hope that by their being at the assembly and listening and learning from the example of mature servants of Jehovah they will eventually progress in Christian stature.

Sharing in keeping the assembly grounds clean is a good way that we can set an example of cleanliness. It is helpful if we not only dispose of any trash in the proper receptacle, but also look under seats and elsewhere after the sessions are over to pick up what may have been dropped and dispose of it properly. This is the loving thing to do also in consideration of those who have volunteered for cleaning the premises, making their job easier.

By far the majority of Jehovah's witnesses, both young and old, at such large assemblies have proven themselves to be fine Christians in conduct and attitude and this has not gone unnoticed by others, even those outside of the organization. Note the comments made by the supervisor in charge of a coliseum in Arizona at an assembly last year: "You seem like one big family, an organized group, not like five thousand kids running mayhem around the building. I don't know how you people do it! Your children are very well mannered, not many children crying like at other events. You folks are really special. I hope you come back and use our facilities again, come back again, please." A security guard for the same coliseum said: "Your surroundings are clean and no one throws trash on the floor, children even put their papers in the trash receptacle. The children are well behaved."

Such experiences show us that when we reflect the fruitage of God's spirit in all our activities and especially at our conventions, Jehovah's great name truly is honored by what we do. Christian love on the part of both young and old as expressed by good manners, which may include saying 'Thank you,' apologizing, etc., will also work toward the enjoyment of the assembly by everyone. (Compare Exodus 4:10; Genesis 18:27; 19:2.) Many other fine points on our conduct in such matters are discussed in *The Watchtower* of June 15, 1970, under the heading "Showing Love for One Another at Assemblies."

WHAT TO WEAR?: Another way in which we can contribute to the fine atmosphere of the assembly is to dress appropriately for the occasion. Remember, many new ones are in attendance at assemblies. They have been told that Jehovah's witnesses dress modestly, in good taste, and that they avoid the appearance of worldly people. But what if they now attend the assembly and find many dressed otherwise? This is one reason why it is important to dress with good taste and not according to the extreme tastes of worldly people. If you are doubtful that some kind of dress would be appropriate, then it is best not to wear it. By following good standards of modesty you can help to adorn the assembly in a spiritual way.—1 Tim. 2:9, 10.

ROOMING: During April the Society will send a supply of Room Request forms to each congregation, on which will be printed the address of the rooming headquarters for each assembly. This will be in ample time for all to complete their arrangements to attend. Some choose to contact hotels and motels themselves and make arrangements, but often more economical arrangements can be made through the convention rooming department. When you receive your copy of the Room Request form from your congregation, please fill it out very carefully and mail it directly to the rooming headquarters address for the assembly city where you will be attending (NOT to the Society), doing so *no earlier than six weeks ahead of the date of the assembly you have selected.*

If you receive a rooming assignment and later have to change your plans and cannot accept it, please send word (1) to the landlord, whose name and address are shown on your assignment card, and (2) to the convention rooming department so that the room may be reassigned. When rooming assignments are made by the convention the landlord is advised of the name and address and date of arrival of the ones assigned. Many householders purchase linens, fix up the rooms, rearrange their own families for sleeping, etc., to accommodate those coming, and they have a right to expect those assigned to be there. If one assigned is unable to take the assignment and fails to notify the landlord in advance, normally the one renting the room(s) might consider that the brother or sister actually owes the money for the room, since Christians are to be true to their word in all things. Whether you stay in a private home or hotel, be courteous and exemplary in conduct, and be considerate in using the facilities.

There will be no trailer camps at the conventions, but the convention rooming department for each assembly will gladly furnish available information on commercial or other trailer parking facilities if there are such places available in that area.

VOLUNTEER SERVICE: Jesus Christ, the Son of God, said: "There is more happiness in giving than there is in receiving." (Acts 20:35) There will be ample opportunity at the assemblies to give of one's abilities and talents to serve the needs of others. There will be plenty of opportunity for all who willingly offer themselves to work side by side with Christian brothers and sisters of various races and nationalities to care for the assembly departments and needs. Such serving, motivated by love, will cause their joy to be full, because they find pleasure in assisting their Christian brothers.—Ps. 110:3.

Why not plan to volunteer as individuals or as family groups? Younger children can work under the supervision of parents or older members of the family. Brothers having families could perhaps volunteer to serve as attendants in sections where they will be sitting with their families. If you cannot serve all four days, your doing so for any other period of time will be very much appreciated and helpful.

The department heads know that everyone wants to hear the program. So, to the extent possible, they endeavor to arrange matters so that those who volunteer are able to hear as much as possible. When there are enough volunteers, it is possible for nearly everyone to hear the entire program.

Application for Volunteer Service forms should be filled out completely and signed by your presiding overseer and then *sent to the rooming address for the convention city you will attend* (NOT to the Society). If you later find that you are unable to serve in your assignment, please advise the volunteer service department at the assembly city of the change. During April the Society will send a supply of Volunteer Service forms to each congregation for use by the publishers.

TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS: Do you have room in your automobile for a pioneer, someone that does not have a car, an elderly brother or sister who needs special help, or an interested person who wants to attend? Make their joy complete as you share in this greater happiness of giving in their behalf.

A WORD OF CAUTION: Regardless of the assembly you attend, you should lock your car at ALL times and NEVER leave anything showing in a parked car. Keep your belongings locked inside the trunk of your car. Also, beware of pickpockets. They often mingle in large crowds. And, for the same reason, do not leave anything of value unattended on seats at the convention.

CONVENTION PIONEER IDENTIFICATION: Regular pioneers who were appointed on or before February 1, 1976, will be sent the Convention Pioneer Identification for use at a district assembly during the service year. These will be sent to the presiding overseer along with the monthly statement for May. Pioneers, be sure to bring your Convention Pioneer Identification to the assembly and treat it as cash, as no replacements will be available. It can be used to obtain the regular food tickets at the assembly. It will also be needed to obtain literature from the bookroom at pioneer rates.

FIELD SERVICE: Starting the weekend prior to each assembly and on until the day before the program begins, there will be a concerted effort made in and around the assembly city to invite the public to attend the entire program. Millions of handbills are being printed for special house-to-house distribution. Publishers living in the assembly cities and nearby will be invited to share. If you plan to travel from out of town to an assembly, could you arrange to arrive a day or two early to share in this work? If so, request your rooming accommodations accordingly. And on arrival at the assembly city go to the address of the rooming department for territory and handbill supplies.

Why not also plan to spend some time while in the assembly city, either in the morning or in the evening, engaging in informal witnessing on your way to the sessions or when returning to your accommodations? Take advantage of every opportunity to speak about the good news and to invite everyone possible to attend the assembly, especially those in whose home you may be staying. If any of the handbills remain from the special distribution, these may be obtained at the bookroom and used to aid in such informal witnessing.

PROGRAM TIMES: The program for the assemblies, in most cases, will begin on Thursday morning at 9:55. Arrange to be there then. Do not miss anything on the program. At most locations, the immersion will be on Friday and those who have made a dedication and who wish to symbolize this by water baptism at an assembly should have gone over the eighty questions with the elders before convention time. Bathing suits and towels should be brought from home by each one who plans to be baptized. We encourage you to arrange your schedule so you do not have to leave the convention prior to 4:00 p.m. on Sunday, when the convention closes.

Please note that variations of the above schedule are that the Spanish-language assembly in Inglewood, California, on June 27-30, will have the program run from Sunday through Wednesday. Also, for the Elmont, N.Y., assembly on August 4-7 the program will run from Wednesday through Saturday and for the assembly on August 8-11 the program will run from Sunday through Wednesday. We encourage those who will attend these particular assemblies to keep in mind that the full program will be presented and so you will not miss any portion of the program by attending one of these. The baptism for the above-mentioned Inglewood Spanish-language assembly and the Elmont assemblies will be planned for the second day of each assembly.

To assist you in making plans to attend one of the 94 district assemblies, the following chart is being provided to indicate the assembly city nearest each circuit throughout the continental United States. Therefore, to the extent possible, we recommend that you attend the convention shown for your circuit unless vacation plans or other circumstances make it more convenient for you to attend elsewhere. In some cases it is necessary to balance the size of the crowd with the seating facilities available and so some congregations in those circuits marked with an asterisk (*) may be slightly closer to another convention city, but it would be best, if possible, to attend the assembly indicated so there will be plenty of room. Where the chart indicates that a portion of a circuit attend a particular assembly, such as ½ or ¼, etc., it simply means that those living in the part of the circuit closest to that assembly would attend where indicated, but the rest of the circuit would attend another assembly closest to them as shown on the list as well. There are also listed a number of cities where two or three assemblies are being held in succession and we are recommending that the brothers in the circuits listed in the chart attend during the particular week indicated, to the extent possible, to assure adequate seating for everyone.

Note: It has become necessary to change the dates for the Billings, Montana, assembly from June 24-27 to July 8-11.

1976 U.S. DISTRICT ASSEMBLIES

ENGLISH-LANGUAGE ASSEMBLIES

June 10-13:
Irving, Tex.: Ark. ½2-B; La. 2-A; Tex. 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 11, 12, 13, 14-A, 15, 16*.
Jacksonville, Fla.: Fla. 3, ½11-A, 11-B; Ga. ½1-A, ¾7.
Kansas City, Mo.: Kans. 1, ½3; Mo. 3, ⅔6, 7; Neb. ¾1, ¼3.
Laurel, Md. (tentative): D.C. 1; Va. 4-B, 4-C; W. Va. 2-B.
Oklahoma City, Okla.: Kans. ⅔2; N.M. ¼3; Okla. 1, ¼2, ⅔4; Tex. 10, 14-B*.
St. Petersburg, Fla.: Fla. 2.
Tucson, Ariz.: Ariz. ⅓2, 4; N.M. 1, ⅓2, ¼3.

June 17-20:
Charlotte, N.C.: N.C. ¼2, ⅔3, 5-B; S.C. 1, ½2.
Greenville, S.C.: Ga. ¼4, ¾8; N.C. ⅓3, ⅓4.
Kalamazoo, Mich.: Ind. ¼7; Mich. ½6-A, 9.
Laurel, Md. (tentative): Md. 2-C, 2-D, 2-E, 4; Pa. 5-B, 5-C, ½9.
Pontiac, Mich. (tentative): Ind. ¼7; Mich. 1, 2, 3, 5, ½6-A, 6-B, 8, 10, 11, 12; Ohio ⅔5.
St. Paul, Minn.: Minn. ¾1, ¾2, 3, 4, 5, 6; Wis. ½5.
St. Petersburg, Fla.: Fla. 7, ½9.
Springfield, Ill.: Ill. 4, 6, 7; Mo. 1-A, ½1-B, 2, 5.
Tuscaloosa, Ala.: Ala. 1*, 2, 4-A, ¾5; Miss. ⅓2, ½3-B.

June 24-27:
Asheville, N.C.: N.C. ⅔4; Tenn. ½1-A, 1-B, 5.
Augusta, Me.: Me. 1; N.H. 1.
Cicero, Ill.: Ill. 1, 11; Ind. 1-B.
Des Moines, Iowa: Iowa 1, 2, ¾3, 4*; Neb. ¼1, 2, ½3.
Greensboro, N.C.: N.C. 1, ¾2, 5-A, 6-A; Va. ½2-A, 2-B.
Kalamazoo, Mich.: Mich. 4-A, 13.
Laurel, Md. (tentative): Md. 1, 2-A, 2-B, 3.
Macon, Ga.: Ala. 4-B; Ga. 5, 6, ¼8.
Mobile, Ala.: Ala. 3, ¼5, ½6; Fla. ½11-A; La. ½3-B; Miss. ½1.
Phoenix, Ariz.: Ariz. 1, ⅔2, 3, 5-B; Utah ¼1.
Richfield, Ohio: Ohio 1, 2-B, 3; Pa. 7, 10.
Tulsa, Okla.: Kans. ½3, 4; Mo. ⅓6; Okla. ¾2.

July 1-4:
Cicero, Ill.: Ill. 2, 8, 9-B.
Denver, Colo.: Colo. 1, 6; Neb. ¼3; Utah ¾1.
Macon, Ga.: Ala. ½6; Ga. ½1-A, 1-B, 2, ½4.
Madison, Wis.: Iowa ¼3; Wis. ¾2, 4.
New Orleans, La.: La. 3-A, ½3-B, 4, 5-B.
Reno, Nev.: Ida. 1-A; Nev. 1.
Richfield, Ohio: Ohio 4, ⅓5, 8, 10; Pa. 8.
Savannah, Ga.: Ga. 3, ¼7; S.C. ½2.
South Bend, Ind.: Ind. 1-A, 1-C, 5, 6-A, ½7; Mich. 4-B.
Tulsa, Okla.: Ark. ½1; Kans. ⅓2; Mo. 4-B*; Okla. 3, ⅓4.

July 8-11:
Allentown, Pa.: Pa. 5-A*, 6, ½9.
Baton Rouge, La.: La. 1, 2-B, 5-A; Miss. ½1, 3-A, ½3-B; Tex. 4.
Billings, Mont.: Ida. 1-B; Mont. 1, 2; Utah 2-A; Wyo. ½1.
Bismarck, N.D.: Minn. ¼1, ¼2; N.D. 1; S.D. 1*.
Cicero, Ill.: Ill. 3, 5, 10.
Denver, Colo.: Colo. 2, 3; Utah 2-B; Wyo. ½1.
Green Bay, Wis.: Mich. 7; Wis. ¼2, 3.
Lakeland, Fla.: Fla. ½9, 10*.
Louisville, Ky.: Ind. 2*, 4; Ky. 2, 3; Ohio 2-A, 2-C, ½7.
Madison, Wis.: Ill. 9-A; Wis. 1, ½5.
Memphis, Tenn.: Ark. 2-A, ½2-B, 3; Miss. ⅔2; Mo. 4-A.
Nashville, Tenn.: Ga. ¼4; Ky. ⅔1; Tenn. ½1-A, 2, 4.
Reno, Nev.: Calif. 23; Ore. 1.
Richfield, Ohio: Ohio ½7, 11, 12, 13, 14; Pa. ⅓12; W. Va. ½2-A.
Seattle, Wash.: Ida. 2; Ore. 2, 3, 4, 5, 6; Wash. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8.
Springfield, Mass.: Conn. 1; Mass. 3.
Syracuse, N.Y.: N.Y. ⅔7, 9, ½21.
Utica, N.Y.: N.Y. 16-B*, ½21.

July 15-18:
Allentown, Pa.: Pa. 2, 3.
Buffalo, N.Y.: ⅓7, 8, 13; Pa. ⅔12.
Denver, Colo.: Colo. 4, 5; N.M. ⅔2, ½3.
Hampton, Va.: N.C. 6-B; Va. 1-A, 6.
Lakeland, Fla.: Fla. ½4, 5.
Louisville, Ky.: Ind. 3, 6-B*, 6-C*; Ky. ⅓1, 4*; Ohio 6, 9.
Memphis, Tenn.: Ark. ½1, 4; Mo. ½1-B; Tenn. 3.
Oakland, Calif.: Calif. 10, 11-A, 11-B, 12, 13, 14-B, 15, 18, 19, 22, 26, 27, 29, 34, 40, 41, 42-B, 42-C.
Philadelphia, Pa.: N.J. 3*, 4-A*, 4-C, 6; Pa. 1, 4, 11, 13.
Reno, Nev.: Calif. 14-A, 14-C, 42-A, 43.
Roanoke, Va.: Va. ½2-A, 4-A, 5; W. Va. 1, ½2-A, 3.
Springfield, Mass.: Conn. 2; N.Y. 16-A; Vt. ⅔1*.
Utica, N.Y.: N.Y. 6; Vt. ⅓1.

July 22-25:
Hampton, Va.: Va. 1-B, 1-C, 3.
Providence, R.I.: Mass. 1-B, 5; R.I. 1.
West Palm Beach, Fla.: Fla. ½4, ⅓6 (Miami), 8.

July 29–August 1:
Inglewood, Calif.: Ariz. 5-A; Calif. 1*, 5, 11-C, 17, 21, 33, 35, 36.
Providence, R.I.: Mass. 1-A, 1-C, 2, 4.
West Palm Beach, Fla.: Fla. 1, ⅔6 (Ft. Lauderdale, Hollywood).

August 4-7 (Note: Wednesday through Saturday):
Elmont, N.Y.: Conn. 3; N.Y. 2, 3, 10, 18, 19.

August 5-8:
Inglewood, Calif.: Calif. 2, 7, 8, 20, 24, 30, 31, 32, 44, 45.

August 8-11 (Note: Sunday through Wednesday):
Elmont, N.Y.: N.J. 1, 2; N.Y. 1, 5, 12, 15.

August 12-15:
Elmont, N.Y.: N.J. 4-B, 5; N.Y. 4, 11, 14, 17.
Inglewood, Calif.: Calif. 3, 4, 6, 9, 16, 25, 28, 37, 38, 39.

SPANISH-LANGUAGE ASSEMBLIES

June 10-13:
San Antonio, Tex.: S-3-A, S-10, S-14.

June 17-20:
West Palm Beach, Fla.: S-12, S-16-A, ½S-16-B.

June 24-27:
Pasco, Wash.: S-19.

June 27-30 (Note: Sunday through Wednesday):
Inglewood, Calif.: S-4-C, S-9, S-20.

July 1-4:
El Paso, Tex.: ½S-3-B, S-18*.
Inglewood, Calif.: S-4-A, S-4-B, S-11, S-28-C.

July 8-11:
Fresno, Calif.: S-5.

July 15-18:
Cicero, Ill.: S-13, S-21.
Fresno, Calif.: S-15.
Lakeland, Fla.: ½S-16-B (Congregations: Fort Myers Spanish; Immokalee Spanish; Orlando—Azalea, Oasis Spanish and Skyline Spanish; St. Petersburg—Pinellas Spanish; Tampa—North Spanish, Ybor City and West Spanish; Atlanta, Ga.—Spanish).

July 22-25:
El Paso, Tex.: S-6, S-28-A, S-28-B.
San Antonio, Tex.: ½S-3-B, S-7, S-8.

August 19-22:
Elmont, N.Y.: S-1, S-2, S-17, S-22, S-27, S-29, S-30.

FRENCH-LANGUAGE ASSEMBLY

July 29–August 1:
Long Island City, N.Y.: N.Y. 20; Miami—French.

Plan to enjoy to the full every session each day of the assembly and make every effort to stay for the united expression of thanks to Jehovah at the end of each day. It is good to be there so you can say "Amen" to the closing prayer.

We look forward to the many blessings that Jehovah has in store for us at the assemblies this summer. Surely it will prove to be a spiritually rewarding experience for you to attend all four days of the "Sacred Service" District Assembly this summer and we encourage you to plan now to be in attendance.—Heb. 10:24, 25.

Note to Body of Elders: After determining from the above chart the suggested assembly for your congregation, please announce to the congregation several times the city and dates so all will know what has been recommended.

Give Aid Through Book Study Groups

[1] The congregation book study conductor has a part of God's flock to care for, and he should be well acquainted with the circumstances of everyone in his study group. (Prov. 27:23) Not that he pries into their personal affairs. But he should know what each one has to face. Some of them work under difficult conditions, having little free time from their jobs; some have physical infirmities, or sick ones at home; some have unbelieving mates or families, while others enjoy more favorable conditions in a fine family of Jehovah's witnesses.

[2] So the conductor concerned for the flock will try to be aware of the spiritual condition of each one. How does he get to know this? By talking personally with them at the study and at the Kingdom Hall, and by visiting their homes. Also he gets to know them by accompanying them in the field service. The field overseer, too, can assist by informing him of needs and by making the Publisher's Record cards available for the conductor to see.

[3] The primary interest of the study conductor should be in *people,* not merely their time in the field. His objective is to help everyone to grow in spirituality. He wants to develop a like spirit in the brothers, namely, a real interest in the people to whom they speak. Thus, none will share in field service just to put in a report for the month, but because of their dedication to Jehovah and their love of people, wanting them to get life.

[4] This objective puts a responsibility upon the conductor. In giving personal help, rather than trying to take too heavy a load all at once, he will accomplish more by giving special attention to one or two persons at a time. After a person advances spiritually, the conductor can help another. Others can share in this, too. No doubt there are other experienced publishers in the group who will be delighted to be of service.

[5] The study conductor, by manifesting interest in each brother and sister in his group, can develop a real family atmosphere. Any timidity and coolness will give way to love and warmth, and all will get real joy out of the study and their service to Jehovah.

Memorial Activity *(Cont'd)*

will even engage in the field service with you, if qualified.

HELP ALL TO ATTEND MEMORIAL

[5] Those new ones who attend the public talk should be invited to attend the celebration of the Lord's Evening Meal on April 14, after 6:00 p.m., Standard Time. Make arrangements to help them to attend. Printed Memorial invitations should also be given to others who have shown some interest. Besides those attending home Bible studies, there are persons who have taken literature or have shown some interest in conversation. Why not review your house-to-house record and make a call on each interested one. These may be shown that this special observance is the only one commanded by Jesus Christ and that all who profess Christianity should by all means be present to observe this most important event of the year.

[6] Parents may take their children on these calls, thus impressing upon the children the importance of the occasion and the need to help others to attend. Children may also bring friends and classmates.

[7] Elders, particularly the Bible study overseer, should stimulate and give direction to this notification work so that all can participate. Thus they will actually be sharing, in a fuller way, in this vital observance.

BETHEL SERVICE

Those desiring to enter Bethel service will be interested to know that there is a new application form. Persons now being called to Bethel are asked to stay for one year as a 'test of their fitness first,' and at the end of that year they may request to remain and continue their service. (1 Tim. 3:10) It is hoped that many will take advantage of this privilege of full-time service.

Those applying should be at least 19 years of age and not over 35. It should be kept in mind that much of the work at Bethel requires strong, healthy young men. If you are interested in serving Jehovah in this very special way, you may request an application form by writing to the Watchtower Bible and Tract Society of New York, Inc. (Attention: Personnel Committee), 124 Columbia Heights, Brooklyn, New York 11201.

DECEMBER SERVICE REPORT

	Pubs.	Av. Hrs.	Av. R.V.	Av. Bi.St.	Av. Mags.
Sp'l Pios.	682	148.5	55.6	4.8	135.6
Pios.	18,269	96.2	36.0	2.9	97.4
Temp. Pios.	6,042	78.7	21.4	1.2	80.2
Pubs.	516,403	8.8	3.9	.4	12.6
TOTAL	541,396				

Newly Dedicated Ones Baptized: 4,342

UNITED STATES GOAL FOR 1976
588,242 Publishers

HOW DID WE DO IN DECEMBER?

We rejoice with the 4,342 who symbolized their dedication by baptism this month. Also, it was gratifying to see that 12,376 more publishers shared in field service than in December 1974. However, there were other features of the report to which we can give thoughtful consideration. For example, the number of hours devoted to preaching was 365,674 less than one year ago. So, can we all increase our opportunities to share the good news, even though winter months make it somewhat more difficult?

Announcements

◆ Literature offer for March and April: Continue to offer subscriptions for *The Watchtower,* with three booklets, for $1.50, or subscriptions for both magazines, with six booklets, for $3.00. If subscription offer is not accepted, offer two magazines and the three booklets for 25c. May: *Truth* book for 25c.

◆ *Kingdom News* No. 22 will be distributed from May 1 to 10. The Society will consign tracts to each congregation without these being ordered. The number sent to each congregation will be at the rate of 100 per publisher, including regular and special pioneers, based on the peak number of publishers so far during the 1976 service year. If you receive more than needed, inform the office in writing of the number you wish sent next time. Special pioneers *in isolated territory* will be sent their supply directly from the Society. This time, circuit and district overseers, and special pioneers with congregations, will obtain tracts from congregation's supply.

◆ The Society is again arranging for a limited number of regular pioneers to serve temporarily as special pioneers in isolated territory during two or three summer months. The minimum requirement will be 150 hours in field service. Each assignment is organized for a team of two. Before writing to the Society, arrangements should be made for a partner (give partner's name when writing) and a car that is in good condition. Some financial assistance will be provided.

◆ The special report card listing attendance and partakers at the Lord's Evening Meal and total regular pioneers should be sent to the Society by the presiding overseer immediately after that meeting.

◆ The Society is sending a manuscript for the discourse "Who Is Jesus Christ, so that We All Need Him?" to be delivered on March 28. The speaker assigned by the body of elders may prepare an outline from the material and deliver the talk extemporaneously if he desires.

◆ Elders and ministerial servants are requested not to write for a "Certificate for Ordained Minister" unless a certificate is specifically needed to establish evidence of "ordination" with officials. The publisher's identification card usually suffices for use at hospitals, prisons or other institutions.

◆ The *Watch Tower Publications Index* for 1971 through 1975 will be ready late in March. Orders for it may be submitted after March 20. This is a cumulative index. It covers the Society's publications for 1975 and includes the entries from all the annual *Indexes* back through 1971. The cost is $1.00 for congregation publishers, 50c for pioneers.

◆ Picture postcards of the Society's Brooklyn headquarters are available in English and Spanish with notes of description on each card. A set of ten costs 25c.

◆ New Publications Available:

One World, One Government, Under God's Sovereignty —Italian
Why Does God Permit Wickedness? —Turkish

PRESENTING THE GOOD NEWS

Continuing Studies Started with Booklets

1 We have been using the three new booklets for two months in starting studies, and likely by now you are just about completing one of the booklets with those who have been willing to study. What progress is it reasonable to expect at this point? That will depend to some extent on the student. But in most instances it should be evident whether they really want to get an accurate knowledge of Jehovah's ways and apply these in their own lives.

2 If they show a sincere interest in the truth, should we assume that now they can get the spiritual food they need at the congregation meetings? No; in most cases that would not be realistic. They need further personal help. It would no doubt be very beneficial to study with them the *Truth* book or perhaps *True Peace and Security*.

3 The concluding paragraphs in each of the three booklets lend themselves well to continuing the study. First, on completing a booklet you might make a brief review of the things learned, and then ask specific questions to stimulate further interest. Be prepared with your personal copy of the *Truth* book and an extra copy. Using the table of contents, show the person that the book takes up these subjects as well as others. Instead of asking whether the individual would like to study for six months, you may find it better simply to talk about plans for next week.

4 As you study the book, in many cases you will find that it is best to cover the material at a moderate pace, reading each paragraph. But some persons may want to have more of a Bible discussion than a paragraph-by-paragraph study of the book. With them you might simply discuss the study questions and look up and discuss the scriptures. This will impress on their minds the fact that it is *the Bible itself* that answers the questions. As for the reading of the paragraphs, you might select just a few key ones in each study to read together. In this way, students that are able to progress quickly can be aided to do so.

5 If you have not already started a study in one of the new booklets, we encourage you to keep this as a goal. If you need help, do not hesitate to talk to the Bible study overseer, your book study conductor, or others who are sharing in Bible study work. Those who are starting studies report the following to be necessary things to getting a study started: (1) A real desire for a Bible study and prayer to Jehovah to bless your efforts to start one. (2) A good amount of house-to-house work in order to find interested ones. (3) Being alert to opportunities for starting a study. (4) Promptness in returning to follow up interest. (5) Determining what Bible subject is of interest to the individual. And (6) being enthusiastic and positive.

Suggested Presentation

The theme of the first article in each issue of *The Watchtower* and the scripture prominently featured there.

Encourage the Young People (*Cont'd*)

do at the Kingdom Hall according to their age and ability. They can be encouraged to welcome newcomers and to share in Kingdom Hall maintenance, such as cleaning and caring for the grounds.

7 Among the youths at our meetings are some whose parents are not Jehovah's witnesses. Have you considered making a friendly visit on the parents of these young folks? This would encourage the youths, and you might be able to aid the parents to get a better attitude toward the truth.

8 You who are parents, of course, have a special responsibility to spend time with your children, showing real interest in their spiritual growth. While helping others, do not neglect your own family. Your children need you to converse with them, to listen to them, to be interested in them, and, not simply to give them orders, but to reason with them. Help them to see how the truth applies in all the ways of life and to take real pleasure in serving Jehovah. Do this, and Jehovah will help you to keep them on the road to life.—Deut. 6:6, 7.

9 In making plans for field service, it would be a fine thing for parents and elders to give consideration to the youths, perhaps planning times after school as well as on weekends. As you are able, personally work with them and help them to learn how to improve their effectiveness in presenting the good news. If we encourage them now, they will be both an honor to Jehovah and a source of joy to all of us in the days to come.

THEOCRATIC NEWS

◆ **Fighting between opposing forces in Beirut, Lebanon, has forced brothers there to confine their meetings and field service to daylight hours. Meetings are held in small groups. One sister was killed by a sniper as she was hanging clothing to dry on the roof. Several brothers were abducted and later released. One was badly beaten. Some in the mountain villages were able to hold their circuit assembly. All rejoice that they can continue to praise Jehovah despite these difficulties.**

Question Box

● Is it permissible to live in the territory of one congregation but attend meetings elsewhere?

Generally speaking, it is best to attend the meetings of the congregation holding the territory where you live. In most cases this proves to be in the best spiritual interests of the family, since it ordinarily makes it convenient to attend meetings, share in field service in territory close by and take advantage of help provided by the elders.

It is recognized, however, that individual circumstances vary. Such factors as one's secular work schedule, having an unbelieving mate or transportation problems may lead someone to conclude that it would be more advantageous spiritually to attend another congregation. Each family head bears responsibility for his own household. After considering all the factors involved, he will have to decide what is best. He may want to discuss matters with the elders to get the benefit of their advice before he makes a decision. Perhaps they know of overlooked advantages that would result to the family in attending the congregation holding the territory where they live, or possible disadvantages that may be encountered in transferring to a neighboring congregation. Often it is easier for the congregation holding the territory to render loving assistance. And the home of the family might be used as a book study location within the congregation holding the territory. But in the final analysis, the elders will want to encourage the family head to decide in a way that will ensure the best spiritual benefits to his family. There is no reason to be critical of his decision when made.

In metropolitan areas, there is often a large number of congregations located in a concentrated area. There may be a number of reasons why the elders may decide that the interests of the work would be advanced by a transfer of publishers. For example, there may be territory adjustments in connection with the formation of a new congregation, or to give additional territory to a congregation covering its assignment frequently, or to strengthen a congregation having few publishers or mature brothers to take the lead. The elders in each congregation can outline what seems to be advisable and request that each family affected consider it. In many instances, there likely will be no problems in making the suggested adjustment. Again, each family head will have to weigh all the factors and decide if such a transfer should be made. The same would be true of elders, ministerial servants or pioneers who are asked if they can transfer elsewhere to assist a congregation needing help. (See "Question Box" in February 1973 *Kingdom Ministry*.)

OUR KINGDOM SERVICE

APRIL 1976
Vol. 19, No. 4
FOR UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Dear Kingdom Publishers:

Since the earthquakes in Guatemala many calls have been received at Brooklyn about our brothers there. Though the tremors were severe, we are thankful to Jehovah that not one of Jehovah's Witnesses has been reported killed. A number of injuries were sustained, such as broken arms, and the injured are being given attention.

Damage to property has been great. Many brothers' homes have been damaged and several Kingdom Halls made of adobe were knocked down. The Society's branch building was not damaged.

Food, water, clothing and fuel were immediately taken to Guatemala City by the brothers from El Salvador, Honduras and Nicaragua. Supplies have also been taken in from Mexico. Funds were sent in from El Salvador and Brooklyn, where the Society maintains a fund for disaster relief work. As needs are reported, appropriate relief will be sent to the stricken areas.

Here in Brooklyn it has been exciting to receive reports about work in starting studies with the booklets. Among them, a circuit overseer in Florida wrote: "The new booklets are going like hot cakes. . . . One sister started six new studies during the week of our visit." In New Jersey a circuit overseer reports that during one week the congregation he visited began 27 new studies and the following week the next congregation started 24 new studies.

The presses have been busy here. Over ten million booklets were produced in the first printing. Since then, the orders have been so numerous that we're now on the fifth printing, which will bring the total up to eighteen million!

Publishers report that it is very easy to start conversations using the warm appeal and convincing logic featured in the booklets.

(*Continued on page 2, col. 3*)

Manifest Your Appreciation

1 When you genuinely appreciate something good, don't you show that by your attitude and actions? Regarding the goodness and loving-kindness that Jehovah extends to us through Jesus, the apostle Paul exclaimed: "Thanks be to God for his indescribable free gift." (2 Cor. 9:15) But consider, was that merely talk on Paul's part? Not at all. In a multitude of ways he manifested his deep appreciation to God. Paul's actions, how he lived his life, displayed his gratitude toward God.

2 Do we not also have much for which to be thankful? Jehovah has given us life now as well as the hope of living forever in paradise. Even now, walking in the way of truth has brought us the priceless blessings of peace of mind, much security in a close relationship with fellow Christians and the assurance that our material needs will be filled. The majority of mankind remain unthankful toward one another. Worse still, they show no gratitude toward God. (2 Tim. 3:2) In contrast, our genuine appreciation should move us to express our thankfulness joyfully.—Ps. 107:21.

AN OPPORTUNITY TO SHOW APPRECIATION

3 The public declaration of our hope gives a most convincing evidence of our appreciation to God. It manifests our intense love for God and neighbor. Such displays of gratitude are very pleasing to Jehovah. (Ps. 147:1, 11) Any reasonable effort to increase such public declaration is sure to receive his blessing. Thankfulness should prompt us to be whole-souled, doing the best we can. That viewpoint often causes many to think seriously about how they might take up the pioneer service.

4 Some thoughtful reflection may cause you to view it as something your circumstances will permit. Ask yourself: Am I convinced that my present effort is all I can do? Since I really want to manifest my appreciation to God and see others saved, is there some way that I can become a pioneer? Why not talk to an experienced pioneer or the circuit overseer, who may be able to give helpful suggestions on scheduling time, finding part-time work or getting someone with whom to work.

5 Young people have a special reason to consider this now. If your life is to have meaning and purpose, you must set and strive for worthwhile goals in youth. How do you want to use your life? What career can you choose that will prove to be the most satisfying and produce lasting benefits? Might pioneering be the answer? Like many other young people who have taken up this activity, you may find that this career offers a joy and peace of mind that have eluded those pursuing goals based on material

(*Continued on page 3, col. 2*)

Using Magazines to Build Faith

1 Our efforts in the preaching work are directed toward making disciples. Over the years, Jehovah's people have used a wide variety of means to do that. The *Watchtower* and *Awake!* magazines have played a large role in achieving the marvelous increase that now brings us so much joy. Jehovah's direction has resulted in their effective use in building faith in the hearts of sincere people the world over. His blessing encourages us to keep using them to the full, making them regularly available to still greater numbers of people.

2 We appreciate that the distribution of magazines has not been our sole objective. Rather, we rejoice over the part they have had in building up enduring qualities in persons as part of the disciple-making work. (1 Cor. 3:10-15) Our aim is to help people, and magazines are useful in doing that. Is that what you have in mind when you share in magazine work? When we want to help people, we will equate our success, not with the number of placements, but with the extent to which we are able to use the magazines to help people to learn something that can save their lives.

EFFECTIVE USE OF MAGAZINES

3 With this in mind, how can magazines be used effectively? A primary objective when one is approaching another person should be to get a chance to talk to him. If he is willing to speak with us, likely we can help him. Many householders are reluctant to talk, usually because of apathy, prejudice or worldly ideas. If we can overcome these initial barriers and get a listening ear, even though momentarily, we may be able to say something that will touch the heart. Magazine activity can help us to do that.

(*Continued on page 3, col. 1*)

YOUR SERVICE MEETINGS

WEEK STARTING APRIL 4

What Does Your Appreciation Move You to Do?

18 min: Song 38. Introductory comments on theme. Heartfelt talk on "Manifest Your Appreciation." Encourage all to think about ways to increase showing their appreciation to God. Invite pioneers to express themselves about reasons prompting them to take up pioneer service. Give suggestions on how to organize personally to be a pioneer.

10 min: Memorial—Reminding Us of a Cause for Gratitude. Talk with some audience participation. Focus on our reason to be grateful for Christ's sacrifice, which makes eternal life possible. (Rev. 7:9, 10; Eph. 1:7) From *Watchtower* of February 1, 1976, pp. 72-76, cover highlights under "Who are invited?," "What should be done if there is an emergency?" and "How is the meeting conducted?"

20 min: "Using Magazines to Build Faith." Questions and answers. Arrange for some brief and simple demonstrations using suggestions in paragraphs 5 and 6. Pick out talking points from April 15 *Watchtower* and, if available, April 22 *Awake!* Demonstrate what could be said to start conversations. Suggest a text that could be read and a short comment to introduce booklet. Stress magazine activity with a view to helping people.

12 min: Concluding Comments. Discuss Branch Letter. Song 72.

WEEK STARTING APRIL 11

(Memorial on April 14. It is up to the body of elders to decide if a service meeting is to be held and, if so, they may prepare it locally.)

WEEK STARTING APRIL 18

13 min: Song 80. Introduction. Our Success in Starting Studies. We have been using new booklets for more than three months. What response have we gotten in our territory? Include local experiences showing how booklets have been used to create interest and start studies. Encourage all to continue carrying and using them to develop interest.

18 min: "Presenting the Good News—Using Expiration Slips Effectively." Discuss article, inviting audience to comment on how suggestions can be applied locally. Include some brief demonstrations showing simplicity of return visit. Put emphasis on starting studies.

15 min: "How Crime and Violence Will Be Stopped." Enthusiastic talk on tract work for May 1-10. Before this part, distribute a copy to each one in audience. Outline what can be done locally to ensure good coverage of territory and distribution of all tract supplies. Discuss how service arrangements can be expanded and what can be done to assist new ones to share. Mention that if outstanding interest is found, time should be taken to offer a Scriptural thought and keep record for return visit.

14 min: Concluding Comments. Comment on the Announcement concerning persons who do not want our literature, also item about use of mailboxes. Ask audience to review chapter 5 in *Truth* book for next week. Accounts report. Theocratic News. Encourage all to pick up supplies of *Kingdom News*. Song 102.

WEEK STARTING APRIL 25

'We Ought to Be Teachers in View of the Time.' (Heb. 5:12)

10 min: Song 54. Introduction on theme. Following baptism, early Christians continued to learn. Many became able to teach God's Word, but some did not make that progress. (Heb. 5:12-14) In recent years many have been baptized, so is not surprising there is room for improvement in being teachers. But some long baptized need to be teachers, too. Are you a teacher?

15 min: Teaching and Making Disciples. Discussion based on *Aid*, page 1579, par. 5, through 1580, par. 3. Qualified men in congregations have heavy responsibility of being teachers. (1 Cor. 12:28; 1 Tim. 3:2; Jas. 3:1) But all Christians are to be teachers when making disciples. (Matt. 28:19, 20) Developing ability to teach is a fine objective for each of us. (Heb. 5:12–6:2) Requires desire to teach and effort to learn what and how to teach. Are you applying yourself?

20 min: Become a Better Teacher of God's Word. Audience participation; based on *Truth* book, chapter 5. Audience should review that. In teaching we can use fine material in publications. Do we learn their contents so we can employ their reasoning and key texts even when we do not have publications available? Two or three brothers come to platform, taking part of interested persons; ask chairman realistic questions (not trick ones) on subject—can paraphrase questions 7, 13, 20, 27. Phrase the questions in a way that a non-Witness would. Chairman invites audience to present texts and reasoning in answer, without opening *Truth* book.

To teach well we need to know what the Bible says and how we can reply when confronted with questions. Do we try to remember key texts and lines of reasoning? Urge placing *Truth* book in May after tract distribution. Use it as a tool in teaching others. Chairman might give *brief* presentation.

15 min: Concluding Remarks. Reviewing plans for tract distribution (May 1-10), encourage all to share, including new ones. Cover territory thoroughly, starting with areas not covered with last tract. Continue distribution until supply is exhausted or territory is covered; adjacent congregations may be able to help. Short observations on tract's contents. Comment on Question Box. Song 60.

Announcements

◆ Literature offer for April: *Watchtower* subscription, with three booklets, for $1.50, or subscriptions for both magazines, with six booklets, for $3.00. If subscription offer is not accepted, we can offer two magazines and the three new booklets for 25c. May: *Truth* book for 25c. June: The *New World Translation* (bi12) along with *"Eternal Purpose"* book, for $1.25.

◆ New Publications Available:

God's "Eternal Purpose" Now Triumphing for Man's Good —Danish, Dutch

God's Kingdom of a Thousand Years Has Approached —Norwegian

◆ Available Again in U.S.A.:

"Look! I Am Making All Things New" —Armenian

◆ Occasionally some householders object when literature, such as a magazine or a tract, is left under the door. Some specifically request that nothing be left at their home. We should try to comply with that. A dated note can be put in the territory envelope showing name of householder who made the request and advising publishers visiting there to avoid leaving anything under the door at that home when the householder is not contacted. If householder moves, note may be destroyed.

◆ Please remember that no literature of any kind should be left *in mailboxes* since postal regulations prohibit that. However, open-ended mail slots may be used.

JANUARY SERVICE REPORT

	Pubs.	Av. Hrs.	Av. R.V.	Av. Bi.St.	Av. Mags.
Sp'l Pios.	680	147.9	57.3	5.1	132.0
Pios.	17,995	96.2	37.1	3.0	91.8
Temp. Pios.	5,704	78.8	24.0	1.4	76.8
Pubs.	525,028	8.8	4.0	.4	12.4
TOTAL	549,407				

Newly Dedicated Ones Baptized: 3,526

UNITED STATES GOAL FOR 1976
588,242 Publishers

HOW DID WE DO IN JANUARY?

Response to release of the new booklets was outstanding! Our report reflects that we put them to good use immediately, distributing 1,355,777 during January! Very fine indeed! This shows that we appreciate new instruments that will help us to teach the good news more effectively. More importantly, the zealous distribution confirms our genuine desire to assist other people to gain the marvelous blessings to which these booklets point in God's Word. Many have already reported excellent results in starting new studies, which shows that we have been applying the suggestions given for their use. Let us continue to carry them regularly, being alert to any opportunity to start a study, enabling more sincere persons to learn about Jehovah's purpose.

Branch Letter *(Cont'd)*

Haven't you found that to be so? Many have said that the booklets can be used quite effectively to stir interest where response in the past has been minimal. We are all happy to have these new instruments that help us to be more successful. May your blessings be many as you continue using these new booklets to make disciples.

Your brothers,
BROOKLYN BRANCH OFFICE

ASSEMBLY SITES

The district assembly tentatively scheduled for Pontiac, Michigan, has been replaced by one in Detroit, Michigan, on June 23-26. The circuits affected by this, according to the list in the March issue of *Our Kingdom Service*, are noted below along with indication of the closest assembly:

June 17-20, Kalamazoo, Mich.: Ind. ¼7; Mich. ⅔3, 9.

June 23-26 (Wednesday through Saturday), Detroit, Mich.: Ind. ¼7; Mich. 1, 2, ⅓3, 5, ⅔6, 8, 10, 11, 12; Ohio ⅔5.

June 24-27, Kalamazoo, Mich.: Mich. 4-A, ⅓6, 13.

Also, the Laurel, Maryland, district assemblies are now definite.

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Using Magazines (*Cont'd*)

4 The magazines contain a fresh slant on the news. Many articles deal with things people are talking about. There are illustrations that tell a story at a glance. There are items to spark the interest of even the nonreligious. Well-written articles present powerful arguments with the simplest of logic. Titles are purposely chosen to be thought provoking. If you can use anything in the magazines to elicit even a small response, you may create an opening that can lead to an extended witness.

5 Before sharing in the magazine activity, you may want to try this: (1) Look over the magazines, picking out a few eye-catching features that you feel are appealing. (2) Try to think of just one or two sentences you could say that would prompt some comment by the householder on one subject. (3) Put a mark in your Bible at a text dealing with the Kingdom message and that you feel you can tie in with that subject in some way. You may get a chance to read it if you get a favorable response. (4) Finally, look over the three new booklets we use to start studies. Note something you can refer to in a booklet if you get a listening ear. Now, you are better prepared, not just to place magazines and booklets, but to take the first step toward building faith in the heart of a new disciple.

6 As you go from door to door, keep in mind starting studies. Many persons will show minimal response, so presentation of the magazines may be the extent of your effort. But when someone shows any inclination to converse, be ready to say something to stimulate further interest. If interest is limited, perhaps you can leave a brief Scriptural thought, making a note on your House-to-House Record to call again with the next issues. When you find a willing listener, try to start a study using one of the booklets and make definite arrangements to call back soon.

7 Magazine activity in this manner extends our objective beyond placements. The emphasis is on people and what we can do to help them. It would be a fine thing for the elders in each congregation to arrange for a magazine day each week, encouraging all to share.

8 It is our desire that sincere ones respond as those did long ago who came to learn of Jehovah's marvelous acts: "Then they had faith in his word; they began to sing his praise."—Ps. 106:12.

How Crime and Violence Will Be Stopped

1 Does that title spark your interest? What law-abiding person is not interested in hearing about it? *Kingdom News* No. 22 will present the Bible's guaranteed promise of relief. Upward of fifty million tracts are being printed and its distribution has been set for May 1-10. Plan now to share in efforts to give your congregation's territory thorough coverage.

2 Six tracts have been distributed since September of 1973. Have they successfully called attention to the Kingdom message, prompting sincere people to act? Judge for yourself. The Society has so far received 26,240 requests for literature sent in by individuals who received the tracts, maybe from some persons with whom *you* left tracts. Additionally, 3,042 persons specifically asked for a Bible study. Also, many congregations reported numerous requests and inquiries received locally from persons showing interest. Arrangements for distribution have intensified our own efforts to do more, most congregations reporting new peaks during each tract campaign. No doubt about it; the impact has been great!

3 *Kingdom News* No. 22 will be different. Yes, a different subject. But it will also have a different appearance. It will be the size of a four-page booklet. You will find it convenient to carry, to hand out and to slip under the doors. It will be necessary to separate and fold every other one before distribution. However, there will be no need to stamp them.

4 How can we prepare in advance to ensure the best results? New ones may find this to be a fine opportunity to share for the first time in house-to-house activity. Encouragement and assistance by experienced publishers will add measurably to their confidence. Parents may want to plan extra arrangements for family participation, especially for the younger ones. Book study conductors can discuss it with their groups, perhaps arranging additional meetings for service for those who are able to

(*Continued on page 4, col. 1*)

Manifest Your Appreciation (*Cont'd*)

desires. This would surely be a fine way of expressing your appreciation to God.

OPPORTUNITIES OPEN TO ALL

6 Some brothers and sisters must realistically acknowledge that, as much as they want to do so, they are not in position to serve as regular pioneers. Still, appreciation gives them the same wholehearted spirit. For many of them, holidays, vacations or work layoffs become choice opportunities to serve as temporary pioneers. Some families pool resources, assisting one or more family members to pioneer. Others on occasion can add to their activity as congregation publishers, planning full days of service periodically. Maybe they can occasionally join a pioneer in service for a full day. Those pioneering often encourage others to become more active, while publishers can help the pioneers by providing transportation and someone with whom to work. When appreciation moves us to give our best, we usually discover a wide range of opportunities to increase our praise to God.

7 There are many new ones attending meetings, and the good things they are learning, combined with the loving interest shown in their welfare, may have stirred feelings of gratitude in their hearts. Their newly acquired hope may be seeking expression in public declaration. (Rom. 10:10) The special activities connected with the Memorial observance, the distribution of special magazines, and the tract work in May, could provide opportunities for them to join the ranks of Kingdom praisers. Those of us who are close to them can give encouragement and help. If they have the desire and qualify, by all means extend a warm invitation for them to join in expressing appreciation to God through the field service.

8 All that is stated in the foregoing encourages us to think about doing more in Jehovah's service. This is similar to Paul's admonition that his brothers "keep on doing it more fully." (1 Thess. 4:1) For what reason? Not to compile an impressive field service record. Neither is it for reasons of personal pride or comparison with others. It is because gratitude for Jehovah's marvelous provisions causes our hearts to overflow with thankfulness. A desire to do more springs from a deep appreciation of all that he has given us and a genuine interest in helping others to receive these same blessings.

9 Because they manifested their appreciation with zeal, Paul commended his brothers for 'their faithful work and loving labor and their endurance due to hope.' (1 Thess. 1:3) Can you see some way that you can more fully demonstrate your appreciation?

PRESENTING THE GOOD NEWS

Using Expiration Slips Effectively

1 Our heartfelt desire is to help persons to learn the truth and become disciples of Jesus. Accordingly, we spend much time in the service looking for persons who are "rightly disposed for everlasting life." (Acts 13:48) An expiration slip is an excellent aid in finding and helping such persons. Why is that so?

2 Because an expiration slip can lead you to someone who has been regularly receiving publications that are of interest to individuals who may be inclined to become true Christians. But how will you use such a slip if you receive one from the Bible study overseer?

3 The former subscriber may simply have forgotten to renew the subscription. Yet it is also possible that interest may have waned a bit or become crowded out by the cares of life. Hence, as a step toward making disciples, we should try to rekindle or increase that person's interest in the good news.

4 When calling back with an expiration slip, many have found it helpful to mention right away something like, "I am connected with the *Awake!* [or the *Watchtower*] magazine; from time to time we make brief visits on persons who have received and enjoyed this fine publication." The householder thus can know that your visit is not unusual and that you are not there solely to renew the subscription.

5 After introducing yourself, how can you stimulate interest in the good news? It will help to have in mind an interesting subject found in one of the current magazines. You can bring up that topic and perhaps tie in an appropriate text. Here is an example with the special *Watchtower* of April 15: You could mention that, while human experts have often shed light on some fact, 2 Timothy 1:10 shows that Jesus is the one who has shed light on life itself; through him eternal life is possible. (Acts 4:12) Next, you might mention that the April 15 special issue deals with this matter; you are bringing it so the householder will not miss it, since his subscription has expired. Offer to provide free assistance in gaining the knowledge that can lead to eternal life, and explain that you will be happy to renew the subscription.

6 Depending on the householder's time, interest and how the discussion has been going, you may be able to demonstrate briefly the Bible study arrangement, using one of the new booklets.

7 Underscoring the fact that expiration slips can be a real aid toward making disciples is the experience of one pioneer. On what he planned to be his last call for the day, he contacted a former subscriber at about 1 p.m. What happened? Listen: "That call stretched to 3 p.m. The woman we called on not only renewed her subscription for *Awake!*, but also then subscribed for eighteen other persons —family members and friends." And this brother feels that on his next visit he will be able to establish a Bible study.

8 Yes, subscription expiration slips are a valuable aid toward finding interested persons and making disciples. If you have any expiration slips in your witnessing bag, use them during April in your disciple-making work.

How Crime Will Be Stopped (*Cont'd*)

share during the week. Brothers assigned to care for territory should see that adequate territory is available, concentrating first on territory not covered in the last tract distribution. Elders may contact neighboring congregations about assistance in covering territory and making sure that tract supplies are distributed.

5 In making your plans, keep uppermost in mind that the purpose behind this work is to *help people.* We want to cover territory, but, more importantly, we want to help any who show interest. Where circumstances permit, try to speak personally to each householder. If offering the tract prompts a listening ear, why not be ready to point out a Bible text that ties in with the tract's message? Psalm 37:10, 11 might be effective. You can also carry copies of the new booklets and the magazines. Be sure to take written note of any good response and call back.

6 The Society is very much interested in the results accomplished by tract distribution. We will be pleased to receive any outstanding experiences showing response in your territory. We can be confident of Jehovah's blessing as we use this as still another means to keep "bringing good news of something better" to the attention of sincere people who are seeking hope for a happy future.—Isa. 52:7.

THEOCRATIC NEWS

◆ There was a concerted effort to publicize the Malawi persecution. Newspapers, radio and TV stations were contacted. By February 1, over 1,000 newspaper stories about Malawi had appeared in the U.S.A., with over 12,000 column inches of space devoted to it. At least 430 radio stations covered the story. There have been about 100 radio and TV interviews. The response from the listening public has been outstanding. Many persons contacted the stations for more information as to what they could do to help.

Numerous individuals were moved to write to officials who they felt might be able to help. A Harvard University scientist wrote the World Council of Churches. Other persons wrote to various Presbyterian churches or church bodies. As a result, that Church's headquarters sent a letter to all Presbyterian pastors disclaiming any "direct organizational relationship with the Church in Malawi." A U.S. Senator entered two long newspaper articles about the Malawi persecution in the U.S. Congressional Record.

Latest reports from Malawi indicate that the persecution continues.

Question Box

● Is it advisable for someone to hold a territory permanently?

For various reasons, individuals may find that covering a certain territory best suits their circumstances. For example, some who lack transportation find it convenient to have territory near home. Or, someone with physical limitations may prefer territory where there are few stairs to climb. It is good when territories can be made available to help such publishers to maintain a regular share in the preaching work.

Yet, where practical, there are advantages when they turn in a territory assignment after covering it a few times. This allows others in similar circumstances to visit that territory. Also, it is often beneficial to have different publishers make calls in a territory, recognizing that people respond to various personalities. A publisher of a different age, with another approach, or who calls at a different time of day, may have greater success in reaching certain persons. Allowing a variety of publishers to cover a territory may result in what we all desire—an effective witness to everyone. The field overseer can coordinate matters to accomplish this.

If someone feels that circumstances recommend his holding on to a certain territory assignment, then it may be that periodically others can be invited to share along with him in covering it. The book study conductor may be able to help by arranging occasional group witnessing. When others are able to develop interest or start studies, they may want to continue calling. Or such calls may be turned over if the publisher holding the territory assignment is in the best position to follow up the interest effectively.

The determining factor is: What will be in the best interest of the people in the territory? We want to care for the territory in a way that will result in the greatest assistance for all sheeplike ones.

OUR KINGDOM SERVICE

MAY 1976
Vol. 19, No. 5
FOR UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Dear Kingdom Publishers:

All of us very much enjoy offering the *Truth* book in the field, and that will be our privilege once again in the month of May. We thought you would enjoy hearing of some of the things that have happened in connection with this remarkable publication.

Since the *Truth* book was released in the summer of 1968, how many copies have been printed? Eighty million in 92 languages! No other book explaining the Bible even approaches the circulation of the *Truth* book; in fact, it is mentioned in the *Guinness Book of World Records*.

Has it helped people to learn the truth? In 1968 the average number of publishers was 323,688 here in the United States; thus far this service year our peak is 577,362. Doubtless the vast majority of the 253,674 who have taken up the service of Jehovah since 1968 were assisted by a study of the Bible with the aid of the *Truth* book, and that is remarkable indeed.

The message presented so directly in the *Truth* book has in many cases had a powerful, life-transforming impact, as illustrated by the experience of one 16-year-old boy who received a copy late in 1971. At the time he was despondent, almost uncertain as to whether he desired to continue living, because of serious family problems and a selfish world that he could not understand and in which he found no place. In his reading of the book, the last paragraph caught his attention. "It made my heart leap; never had I heard of anything so wonderful." Despite the opposition of all of his family he made progress to dedication and baptism in just a short time. After graduation he began pioneering and has served for the past year now as a member of the Bethel family. Yes, this small book has given hundreds of thousands of persons hope and

(*Continued on page 2, col. 3*)

We Want to Help People

1 Jehovah God has demonstrated unmistakably his desire to help people, for he gave the dearest treasure of his heart, his only-begotten Son, in behalf of mankind. (John 3:16) During Jesus' earthly ministry, which included his sacrificial death, he exhibited the same heartfelt desire to help people. (Matt. 8:3; 20:28) We want to imitate their example by helping people, and especially is it urgent because we are deep into the time of the end. It is not sufficient to supply people with Bible literature; they really need personal help to know and understand God's purposes, and we can give that help through a home Bible study.—John 17:3.

2 How much time should we be spending in field service helping people? Since our circumstances vary greatly, the congregation does not set field service quotas or goals. Individually, though, we may find it beneficial to set goals for ourselves that take our circumstances into account. Jehovah, of course, requires that we render whole-souled service. (Matt. 22:37) Some may find that they can devote only a few hours a week, while others may be able to devote time several days each week in spreading the good news. Your circumstances may allow you to reach out and be a temporary pioneer or enter regular pioneer service. So we see, then, some are capable of much more than others because of better physical health and stamina, and greater freedom in life.—Mark 4:20.

3 Some of us may feel that preaching from door to door and conducting studies with people in their homes is something toward which we are not naturally inclined. Love for Jehovah and for people, however, enables us to overcome this feeling and to find joy in field service. And when we realize that we are helping people who are living in the shadow of death, we soon forget our concern over self. (Matt. 16:24; 11:28-30) Jehovah richly rewards those who give of themselves unselfishly.—Mal. 3:10.

"KINGDOM NEWS" DISTRIBUTION

4 During the first ten days of May we will be distributing the *Kingdom News*. Why? Because we want to help people. Former campaigns of tract distribution have been very successful in doing that. So we will make a united effort to distribute our congregation's entire allotment by May 10. It may be that as we place tracts we will find

(*Continued on page 7, col. 1*)

A Loving Provision to Help Us

1 The Christian congregation in the first century prospered spiritually and expanded rapidly. Why? The Bible shows that one of the outstanding factors was the provision for traveling overseers to visit congregations. These visits helped the congregations to be "made firm in the faith and to increase in number."—Acts 15:22; 16:4, 5.

2 There is no less need for such help today. Surely we appreciate that we are in the last days foreshadowed by the climactic events of the first century. More than ever we need to be made firm in the faith and encouraged to continue making public declaration of our hope. In addition to the loving assistance being given by local elders, circuit overseers are sent to help us congregationally and individually to be strong. But you may ask, "How can the visit of the circuit overseer help me personally?"

HOW HE HELPS US

3 He is an elder with spiritual qualifications. He has experience in dealing with a variety of problems and may be able to offer helpful suggestions that will assist you in some way. His example in wise use of his time and energy may well motivate you toward stronger appreciation and whole-heartedness. Perhaps some of his comments in personal conversation will help you to develop a deeper, warmer relationship with Jehovah. Having an "interchange of encouragement" will likely aid you to be made more firm in the faith.—Rom. 1:11, 12.

4 His schedule of activity with the congregation is planned with your spiritual interests in mind. His Bible-based talks may help you to understand better its teachings and see how its principles can be applied in your everyday life. He gladly takes time to give you kindly encouragement if he sees that you are depressed. Counsel may be needed; he will be glad to give that, too, with genuine concern for your welfare and, above all, your relationship with Jehovah. By word and example he will endeavor to help you to appreciate your blessings, privileges and responsibilities more fully.

(*Continued on page 8, col. 1*)

YOUR SERVICE MEETINGS

WEEK STARTING MAY 2

12 min: Song 22. Introduction. Comments on May theme, "Depend Constantly upon the Hearer of Prayer." (Ps. 65:2) Include comments on Psalm 25:4, 5. Earnest prayer is vital to a good personal relationship with Jehovah.

15 min: "Have Your Say in Your Heart." Warm talk based on March 1, 1976, *Watchtower* article, pages 133, 134.

18 min: "We Want to Help People." Question-and-answer coverage. In discussing paragraph 2, particularly help all to appreciate the importance of whole-souled service in accord with their individual circumstances. In covering paragraph 6, encourage local expressions of the added joy publishers have had in using the Bible.

15 min: Concluding comments. Experiences enjoyed in distributing current *Kingdom News* or in previous distributions. [Arrange for these ahead of time.] Encourage full weekend of distribution. Brief demonstration of offering tract. Try to put out your allotment. Publishers who will not be able to distribute all copies will give what they cannot use to the field overseer. If extra tracts are available at the time of the service meeting, publishers will be encouraged to take extra copies. Song 48 and prayer.

WEEK STARTING MAY 9

10 min: Song 50. Introduction. Discuss Colossians 4:12, emphasizing prayer on behalf of our brothers and the importance of doing what our circumstances permit in aiding our brothers.

15 min: "A Loving Provision to Help Us." Question-and-answer discussion. Throughout discussion ask publishers to comment on how circuit overseer's visits have helped and encouraged them.

23 min: "Presenting the Good News—By Arousing Interest in God's Word." After demonstrating first presentation draw out audience by using these questions as appropriate: (1) Why is it good to allow householder an opportunity to express himself in answer to initial question? (2) To what kinds of people will it likely appeal? (3) What is the advantage of turning directly to the Bible text? (4) How does this presentation arouse interest in God's Word?

Do the same with the second presentation. Throughout this entire part, the one conducting will have in mind helping all to see the need of preparing something definite to use in presenting the *Truth* book with the goal of starting a Bible study.

12 min: Concluding comments. Cover Question Box, congregation's field service report for April and accounts report. Song 56 and prayer.

WEEK STARTING MAY 16

8 min: Song 59. Discuss Romans 10:1, showing we should pray for those we seek to aid. One way we aid others is through Bible studies.

15 min: "Do You Really Want a Bible Study?" Question-and-answer coverage of article. Stress how obstacles to conducting a study can be overcome.

20 min: Various Ways to Start a Study. Chairman points out that there are numerous ways to start a study. Begin demonstration of study started on initial call with reading of Revelation 21:3, 4, using material from first presentation under "Presenting the Good News." Direct attention to paragraph 3 on page 6 in *Truth* book, reading paragraph aloud up to 2 Timothy 3:1-5. Ask question "a" conversationally, without directing householder to bottom of page. Make literature offer *after* starting study. Chairman invites audience to comment about benefits of this approach.

Second demonstration begins with reading of Matthew 19:5, 6 (of second presentation) and book is offered. After book is accepted, tactfully take the initiative in showing the householder briefly what the Bible teaches about raising children, directing attention to paragraph 9 on page 173. Read it together, along with Proverbs 22:6. Ask question on paragraph 9 conversationally, drawing householder out. Get audience comments as to benefits of this approach.

Chairman encourages all to be alert to start studies on the initial call, if possible. If not, return promptly with scripture and paragraph in mind to start discussion, working gradually into a study. While it may require a number of calls to get study started, keep your objective in mind each time you return.

If you encounter a householder who already has the *Truth* book, the following suggestions can be used in starting a study. Demonstrate: Publisher reads Revelation 21:3, 4, presents book; householder states he has the book; publisher is pleased householder has the Bible study aid, directs attention to paragraph 3 on page 6 . . . [Follow through as outlined above.]

Remember to be friendly and natural, having in mind our desire is to help people through Bible study service.

17 min: Concluding comments. Brief local experiences (lined up in advance) from several publishers stating how a Bible study was started with them, covering various ways study was started, such as in house-to-house work, on a return visit, through referral, by a relative, etc. Some questions might be used: What motivated you to start studying? How was the study started with you? What publication did you start studying first? Help audience to see there are many approaches. Inform congregation of number of studies they conduct with *public.* Encourage applying suggestions made this evening to start Bible studies. Song 67 and prayer.

WEEK STARTING MAY 23

10 min: Song 75. Introduction. Discuss value of praying with regard to those in spiritual need.—James 5:14-16.

20 min: Serving Jehovah Together. To be handled by an elder, with audience participation. Explain that elders very much appreciate privilege and responsibility that is theirs, want to aid and encourage flock in every way, rendering personal assistance when problems arise. Elders desire to be of even greater help, but often face time limitations. In addition to presiding over congregational meetings, shepherding and other congregational responsibilities, what basic Christian obligations do the elders have? (1 Tim. 3:5; 5:8; Matt. 24:14; 28:19, 20) We can help them by not unnecessarily adding to their load. They must handle weighty matters of a judicial nature but might enlist aid of other qualified ones in connection with other activities. All of us want to work and cooperate together in doing Jehovah's will so elders can care for all of their responsibilities, including public preaching and disciple-making work.

What can we do to cooperate with the elders? (Heb. 13:7, 17; may be able to discuss problem or question before or after meeting, when working with elder in field service; not always necessary that a personal visit be made, perhaps consuming much time, or phone calls at a late hour.) What attitude toward one another will be helpful? (1 Pet. 4:8; Gal. 6:1) When faced with problems, is it always necessary to go to an elder for help? [Older sisters may be of assistance to younger sisters, Titus 2:3-5; young persons should consult parents, Ephesians 6:1; wives should consult their husbands, Ephesians 5:22; all can check *Index* on Scriptural questions.] What are some things all of us should do before making weighty decisions? [Luke 6:12; 2 Tim. 3:16, 17] Should any of us always look to the elders to make final decisions for us? (Gal. 6:5) Because of loving concern for congregation, all elders wish they could do more, had more time, but must balance their responsibilities.—2 Cor. 11:28.

20 min: How Do You View Your Kingdom Hall? Audience participation on first part of insert down to "Planning for Expansion." Cover next two sections down to "Building a New Kingdom Hall" by talk.

10 min: Concluding comments. Cover highlights of the Branch Letter and appropriate Announcements. Outline arrangements for holiday witnessing on May 31. Song 77 and prayer.

WEEK STARTING MAY 30

7 min: Song 99. Introduction.

15 min: How Do You View Your Kingdom Hall? Summary of second half of insert, from "Building a New Kingdom Hall" to end. If it is thought advisable locally to spend additional time discussing this material, this can be done, according to need.

25 min: "Preaching Christ—Through Envy or Goodwill?" May 15, 1976, *Watchtower* article. To be handled by elder, with a good deal of audience involvement.

13 min: Concluding comments. If congregation is attending convention in June, may use some time to review appropriate points in convention insert in March issue of *Our Kingdom Service.* If assembly comes later, please adjust program at appropriate time prior thereto. Include points on field service for June. Song 104 and prayer.

Branch Letter *(Cont'd)*

purpose, for it contains the truth that leads to eternal life.

Your hard work in field service, distributing literature and conducting studies, shows that you want to help people. It keeps us busy. We expect that you will place many thousands of books during May as you continue aiding people in great spiritual need. We wish you to know that we are ready to fill your orders and we are grateful for the privilege we have of helping in this way. May Jehovah bless our united efforts to his honor and the salvation of many more who may yet get to know and serve him.

Your brothers,

BROOKLYN BRANCH OFFICE

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How Do You View Your Kingdom Hall?

LIKE an oasis in a parched land, the Kingdom Hall in each community serves as a place of spiritual refreshment. To this building come people of all walks of life to learn of Jehovah. They see this as a "house" that is dedicated wholly to the worship of our God Jehovah.

Is that how you personally view the Kingdom Hall? Do you look forward to the meetings, to the association with the brothers and sisters there, to assisting with the activities there?

Your Part in Caring for the Kingdom Hall

With the Kingdom Hall in use several times each week, there will naturally be a need for cleaning and maintenance. Do you appreciate the privilege you have of helping to keep it neat and clean? The Kingdom Hall should be cleaned according to a regular schedule, depending on its use and needs. All may have a share, even the children. In this way all will learn the responsibility attached to the upkeep of the Kingdom Hall, and will appreciate it more. How nice it is to step into a clean and neat Kingdom Hall and to invite new ones to such a hall!

Usually cleaning is arranged according to book study groups. The elders may wish to schedule groups to rotate weekly in looking after the cleaning under the direction of the book study conductor or another brother in the group. A list of things to be done in cleaning can be posted. Supplies and equipment should be on hand for use in doing the cleaning. A ministerial servant may be assigned to have general charge of Kingdom Hall upkeep, such as ordering supplies and checking on maintenance needs; but with all having a part in caring for the hall, the burden will not fall on just a few.

The general appearance of the Kingdom Hall should be monitored. Does it need new paint inside or out? Are there repairs needed? Does the yard or the parking lot need attention? If there is a lawn or shrubbery, these need regular care. Are there ways within the budget of the congregation to make the inside of the hall more attractive? Often little things can be done that are relatively inexpensive but that mean very much in making the décor more pleasing. Remember, a meeting place that is clean, furnished in a practical manner, and maintained properly is one that reflects well on Jehovah and his people.

Maintenance will be kept to a minimum if all are careful to avoid breaking equipment or damaging the furnishings. Chewing gum should never be disposed of by placing it under a chair. And you know that dropping gum or candy on the carpet or floor, or spilling the baby's milk on it, or neglecting to wipe your feet on coming into the hall, are all things that make floor care very difficult. Some walls and chairs can easily be spotted or damaged. Carelessness can make an ugly eyesore, and to fix it may require much time and expense. Each one's taking a few moments to be careful will be appreciated by all.

Young folks are a welcome sight at the Kingdom Hall. They should be right alongside their parents in receiving instruction from Jehovah's Word and in learning how to be effective young praisers of Jehovah. But being at the Kingdom Hall is not the same as being at home or in one's backyard. The responsibility rests upon parents to keep an eye on their children and control them while at the hall. Unnecessary trips to the rest rooms or playing before or after meetings should be discouraged. Disorderly children when "let on the loose" cause shame. (Prov. 29:15) When elders speak to you about these matters, be responsive and thankful, as they are interested in keeping the Kingdom Hall fully representative of Jehovah's pure worship in the community.

Planning for Expansion

With the steady increase in attendance at the meetings of Jehovah's Witnesses, the time inevitably comes when consideration must be given to arranging for a new Kingdom Hall. Already many halls are filled to overflowing. This emphasizes the need to avoid short-range planning that could result in Kingdom Halls that are too small and outgrown almost before they are finished. There is the danger also of waiting too long before exploring the possibility of getting a new Kingdom Hall, and laying the groundwork for future expansion. We have to look ahead. While we know that we are deep into the time of the end and the "great tribulation" is near, we do not know just how near, and we should plan to be going full-speed ahead when the end of this system arrives.

Different situations exist in each case and current needs and those anticipated will vary. Some may find it more convenient to rent, but in many countries congregations have found it more practical to purchase property and to build a Kingdom Hall suited to their needs.

Who will do the planning? All the elders should feel this responsibility. When they meet, this matter should periodically be on their agenda. How are we preparing to take care of anticipated expansion? Already the Kingdom Hall may be used by two or three congregations. Is a new hall needed? When? It should not be a case of one congregation having a hall and viewing the getting of a new hall as the problem of the one or two other congregations meeting in the hall. This would be a narrow and shortsighted view. Rather, the concern of all should be, What can we all do to care for the grand increases with which Jehovah is blessing his organization today?

The elders or others designated by them will take the initiative in locating land on which to build, but all can be on the lookout for possibilities. Sometimes suitable land is donated. Obviously more is involved than getting land donated or buying it. In what type of neighborhood is the lot located? Land may be cheaper in one area, but will it be in the best interests of the congregation to build a hall there? Zoning laws must be taken into consideration, and at times there are restrictions running with the land as to what can be built on the property. What is required in the way of off-street parking? What about drainage, water supply and other utilities? The congregation should be sure that it is possible to build on the property a Kingdom Hall of the type and size needed and that it is possible to get clear title to the land.

Sometimes congregations have found it practical to purchase an existing building and remodel it to suit the needs of the congregation while conforming to building codes. However, be sure to inspect such buildings and equipment therein thoroughly.

Financing the Kingdom Hall

When the congregation is discussing the possibility of obtaining a Kingdom Hall, you personally may find it possible to make a donation to the project or to loan funds that you may not need presently. In addition, you may wish to determine how much you feel you can regularly contribute each month, with Jehovah's blessing. While this is not a tithe or assessment, it being entirely voluntary, the elders may seek this information from those associated to help them in making plans. Unsigned slips with the amount thereon would suffice to give this estimate.

After determining the funds that are available locally, the congregation may find that it needs help with additional funds. Many congregations arrange for a loan through the Society. If this arrangement is desired, a letter of inquiry may be sent to the Office of the Secretary of the Watch Tower Society, and information will be sent.

As an example of what has been done successfully in planning for additional facilities and financing, three neighboring congregations in a city in the United States had cooperated in building a Kingdom Hall, most of the publishers being part of one congregation originally. It seemed advisable to plan for a Kingdom Hall in another part of the city, in the territory of one of the congregations. What could be done to assist this congregation?

All together the elders looked into a number of possibilities. Not much money was available in the congregation funds for use as an outright contribution toward the new hall. But the mortgage on the present Kingdom Hall was almost paid off. All had assisted in this. So why not borrow additional funds? This is what they did, and a fine contribution was thus made to the congregation that was making plans to build a new hall. This kept the mortgage payments on the new hall down to a level where the congregation that would occupy it could manage them. And the two remaining congregations in the first hall willingly and lovingly carried the payments on the new loan rather than merely paying off the original mortgage and feeling no more obligation to help with Kingdom Hall financing. This experience is typical of many congregations that are progressively looking ahead and planning for the steady increase in their communities.

In other places, congregations have succeeded in completely paying off all mortgages on their halls and then have been able to open a bank account, perhaps a savings account, for a "building fund" and put any excess contributions into the bank, anticipating the time ahead when the funds will be needed to build another Kingdom Hall nearby. Or, until the money contributed for this purpose is needed, the congregation may wish to have the Society make use of such funds temporarily in advancing the Kingdom work by the "conditional donation" arrangement.

Building a New Kingdom Hall

Careful thought should go into planning the building. Often it is advisable to use the services of an architect in drawing up plans and in working with the regulatory agencies of the city or county in getting plans approved. It may be required by law in some localities. Looking at other halls and inspecting their plans, if available, may prove very beneficial. Suggestions by brothers and sisters may be made to the elders, and in making their decisions it is wise on the part of the elders to consult brothers inside and outside the congregation who have had experience in buying property and in construction. The Society has a few sample designs that may be borrowed, if desired, and these can be obtained from the Office of the Secretary.

The approximate cost of the project can be estimated in accord with the type of building the congregation desires and can afford. Spending money wisely should always be in mind, but an economy building may cost more to maintain in the long run than if a little more was spent to make it enduring or large enough to begin with or to get a little better equipment. Also to be considered is not placing an *unreasonable* financial burden on the congregation. We want the Kingdom Hall to be attractive, but it is not practical wisdom to spend liberally to make it beautiful while skimping on equipment that must serve adequately and reliably week after week. For example, good lighting, sound equipment, heating, ventilation and seating are essential if those attending are to benefit fully from the meetings.

The elders will often find it advisable to select a building committee to oversee the construction work, designating one as coordinating chairman. It is important to select brothers for this committee who have had some building and business experience, if at all possible. General decisions on construction in harmony with the plans and wishes of the congregation can be made by the building committee on a day-by-day basis. However, there should be good cooperation with the body of elders, to whom the building committee is responsible, and who will be consulted. The elders will make decisions on any major changes felt necessary or unusual developments they should know about. It is understandable that some variation may occur in original estimates as construction gets under way due to fluctuating costs and unforeseen problems encountered.

When two or more congregations decide to cooperate in buying land and building a hall, or remodeling an existing building, there should be thorough discussion by all the elders of what is proposed and an agreement should be reached on type of building, approximate costs, financing, and so forth. The respective congregations should clearly know, through their body of elders, what is recommended, so a final decision can be made by each congregation on the basis of sound information. The general agreement to cooperate on the project and the basic understanding should be set down in writing and signed by all the elders after approval by the respective congregations. We cannot emphasize too strongly the need for good cooperation between the bodies of elders and the congregations involved.

The body of elders may decide that the construction work can be done entirely by the brothers or circumstances may make it advisable to hire a contractor. Or perhaps some work can be done by brothers, with certain installations being done by subcontractors. Are you skilled in carpentry, masonry, plumbing or one of the other trades? If so, likely you can help immensely. But you need not be a skilled worker to volunteer. There will be much work to be done, such as preparing the site, bringing supplies, installing certain things, cleaning and so forth. And sisters may volunteer for lighter tasks and for preparing food for the workers. Making good use of the voluntary efforts of those in the congregation and in neighboring congregations follows the example of the tabernacle construction in the wilderness and the building of Solomon's temple, when fine craftsmen from among Jehovah's people were used.—Ex. 35:34, 35; 2 Chron. 2:11-16.

It is desirable to complete the Kingdom Hall as quickly as possible so it does not unduly interfere with the preaching work. The body of elders should be sure that definite arrangements are made for regular service opportunities in the field. Some who are limited in what they can do in the construction work may find they can increase their field service during this time. Care should be exercised, of course, that none work so hard on the Kingdom Hall that their families are neglected. A good schedule will assist in this regard so that family study, meetings and field service are included, even though somewhat limited during the construction period. Long hours of hard work may be needed to finish the project, but Jehovah blesses those who serve him wholesouled.—Col. 3:23, 24.

As you work together building the Kingdom Hall, there will be many occasions to demonstrate the fruits of the spirit, particularly love, patience, mildness and self-control. (Gal. 5:22, 23) There are usually good reasons why things may not be done exactly as you think they should be done. Having this in mind and remembering that there is often more than one way to do things will help you to cooperate with the ones appointed to supervise the work.

When the building is finished, it is fitting to arrange a dedication program. The body of elders can decide what is appropriate. A weekend might be selected for this occasion. Many congregations arrange a few hours for "open house," when people in the community can come and see the new building and get acquainted. It is optional as to whether invitations are printed for this purpose, setting forth the program. Printed programs would be arranged locally, as these are not printed by the Society. Preliminary to the discourse on dedication, some congregations arrange to hear a few experiences on the building of the Kingdom Hall and the history of the congregation. If the dedication program is held on Saturday, arrangements might be made for a special public talk on Sunday along with the *Watchtower* study.

Operation of the Kingdom Hall

Who owns the Kingdom Hall? Actually no one congregation should feel that it "owns" the Kingdom Hall. It is dedicated to Jehovah's worship. The congregation that builds or rents a building has committed into its care a trust in connection with the hall, and the body of elders has the responsibility to manage wisely the Kingdom Hall's operation so that Kingdom interests are best served.

Before property is bought, it is strongly recommended that the congregation either appoint trustees or form a legal corporation to hold title to the property. If the decision is to form a corporation, officers can be elected from among the mature brothers associated, according to the bylaws of the corporation. The trustees or corporation officers do not manage the Kingdom Hall but the elders have responsibility of oversight. It is not required that the officers be changed from year to year but only as this becomes necessary due to moving, deaths and so forth. (Helpful suggestions are available on request to the Society for its letter entitled "Information Regarding Ownership of Kingdom Halls.")

In many instances several congregations use the same Kingdom Hall in order to get full use of the facilities and to keep down expenses. The Society deals with only one of the congregations as far as loans, insurance and things of this nature are concerned, and this congregation is usually the one holding the territory in which the Kingdom Hall is located. But while the Society corresponds with only one congregation and the title may be in the name of this congregation, such handling of these physical responsibilities does not provide a basis for this congregation to decide unilaterally when meetings shall be held by all the congregations meeting in the Kingdom Hall, nor how much money each should pay on any mortgage and operating expenses.

How can these matters be decided with loving consideration for all? Some congregations have found it best, where more than one congregation uses the hall, for all the elders in the congregations involved to meet and to decide Kingdom Hall matters. In this way problems resulting from lack of communication or representation are kept to a minimum. Thus, there is a common sharing of the building dedicated to Jehovah's service and there is common responsibility to take good care of it. Under this arrangement no one congregation dominates while others become mere "tenants." It would be well that such agreement be in writing, with a copy for each congregation's file, since elders may move and subsequent elders may not be aware of any oral understanding.

When there is only one congregation meeting in a Kingdom Hall, the elders can consider what they feel will be the best times for the meetings and present their recommendations to the congregation for discussion, possible alteration and final decision (by majority vote of the dedicated publishers), making them as convenient as possible for the majority. However, when more than one congregation meets in the hall, in line with what is stated above, the elders of all the congregations may wish to meet and discuss meeting-time preferences and work out the best arrangements for all concerned. Where there is a choice to be made in times of meetings, of course, the matter rests not simply with the elders, but with each congregation to decide.

Some congregations find that rotating times of meetings, or offering to do so every year or so, is desirable. Good communication and cooperation contribute to mutual understanding and contentment, without the feeling developing that one congregation has certain advantages all of the time. Good cooperation is also needed in connection with meetings during the circuit overseer's visit, weddings, etc.

Similarly, all elders may meet initially and set up a committee of knowledgeable elders for day-to-day operation and maintenance of the hall. This will prevent the entire body or bodies of elders (if there is more than one congregation) from having to meet often to decide on ordinary matters having to do with general operation and maintenance, and the paying of bills incidental thereto. Guidelines could be established, such as a cut-off point on how much might be spent on normal operations without special approval.

Under this arrangement, if there are difficult questions or unanticipated major expenditures, these could be referred to the whole group of elders for determination. If the elders felt that a major expenditure was advisable, their joint recommendation could be submitted to the respective congregations, setting forth the facts, including the anticipated costs. Then the congregations could make a final decision.

Each congregation could supply an agreed-upon amount regularly for Kingdom Hall operation. To arrive at this, all the elders in the congregations meeting in the hall could discuss together what is needed on the average each month for the mortgage payment and other expenses. On the basis of this, the elders in the respective congregations can decide what recommendation they will make to their congregations. Each congregation will then make a decision on what payment will be made each month. As necessary, and as seems advisable, adjustments can be made in the amount sent to this fund by each congregation.

Funds may be handled through the congregation that sends the mortgage payments to the Society, if that is being done. A separate accounts sheet could be maintained just for the operation of the Kingdom Hall. And if it will assist with the bookkeeping, a separate bank account could be opened by this congregation. Periodically, reports on the operation could be made to the elders and arrangements would be made for a quarterly audit of the accounts.

The Kingdom Hall is one of Jehovah's provisions that enables us to meet together. The happy and rewarding activities arranged at the Kingdom Hall are part of the provisions of Jehovah's spiritual paradise. The provisions are there for all to share. But it is not wise to take them for granted. We should appreciate them and look well to the care of the Kingdom Hall. King David said: "I rejoiced when they were saying to me: 'To the house of Jehovah let us go.'" (Ps. 122:1) Let us all imitate David and other faithful servants of old in how they viewed the construction and use of buildings dedicated to the true worship of Jehovah.

We Want to Help People (*Cont'd*)

an interested person. Remembering that our desire is to *help people,* let's take advantage of that opportunity to answer questions, even starting a study then and there if advisable.

5 The desire to reach and help people has moved some publishers to adjust their schedule for field service. In certain areas they have reported that Saturday has proven to be a very fine time to make the regular offer and start Bible studies, instead of just offering magazines.

6 People can be helped by our direct use of the Bible. Why? It gives the public a more accurate impression of our work. One brother wrote the Society, stating: "After encouragement was given to use the Bible more, I found it very easy to work with the Bible in hand and, after a greeting and introduction about local problems, open the Bible to a text and discuss it with the householder. How surprised I was when nearly every person I spoke to paid attention, some even taking literature! Previously I had had little response in that territory; it was the *open Bible* that seemed to open their hearts to the message of truth."

7 In addition to the field service, we all have other contacts with people. By tact and friendly interest in people, we can take advantage of these opportunities to help people appreciate God's Word of truth and its message of salvation. Our fine course of Christian conduct every day also helps people, for it recommends to them the truth by which we live. By sharing in tract distribution, offering the *Truth* book and starting Bible studies where possible during the month of May, we draw attention to the wonderful love that Jehovah God and Jesus Christ have for mankind and fulfill our sincere desire to help people.—2 Cor. 5:20.

FEBRUARY SERVICE REPORT

	Pubs.	Av. Hrs.	Av. R.V.	Av. Bi.St.	Av. Mags.
Sp'l Pios.	681	148.3	57.9	5.4	144.6
Pios.	17,498	94.7	36.3	3.2	96.6
Temp. Pios.	4,681	78.8	23.7	1.4	80.9
Pubs.	521,748	8.8	4.0	.4	13.0
TOTAL	544,608				

Newly Dedicated Ones Baptized: 4,223

UNITED STATES GOAL FOR 1976
588,242 Publishers

HOW DID WE DO IN FEBRUARY?

February was another excellent month for acquainting others with the truth through the new booklets. This year we placed 1,262,032, compared with 247,521 booklets last February. Excellent, indeed! As we follow through in helping people, undoubtedly we will have the joy of starting many more Bible studies.

Do You Really Want a Bible Study?

1 Many more Bible study teachers are needed to teach those who may yet become disciples of Christ in the time remaining. This work is important, in view of what Jesus commanded.—Matt. 28:19, 20.

2 Some of us may, for various reasons, feel inadequate to share in Bible study work. But even if you are new in the truth and relatively inexperienced in field service, a sincere desire will move you to reach out and help people. One young man, himself still studying, happily shared what he was learning. An elderly woman was so interested in what he told her while he was working in her home that he started a Bible study with her. Imagine his joy to witness her baptism, just a few months after his own!

3 Can you younger ones share in Bible study work? Yes. Many of school age are now conducting studies with schoolmates, often doing so during a school lunch hour or free period.

4 Are you a family head with many responsibilities? Some have started studies with fellow employees, conducting them during a lunch or coffee break. Or are you a busy housewife with smaller children? A number have been successful in cultivating the interest of a neighbor, often by talking over a cup of coffee or at the clothesline, thus leading to a Bible study.

5 If you wish assistance, why not ask your book study conductor or the Bible study overseer. When the circuit overseer and his wife visit your congregation, they also will be glad to aid you in Bible study work.

6 Jesus commissioned his followers to do more than just preach. He urged them to make disciples. Are we doing that? Do we sincerely desire to do so? It is good to ask ourselves, "Do I really want a Bible study?" Jehovah has provided much to aid us in fulfilling this lifesaving commission.

WILL YOU PLEASE?

All of us like to receive our magazines. But some new subscribers complain that the magazines do not start coming for months after subscribing. What can we do to avoid this?

Publishers, please turn in your subscriptions at the first meeting after you obtain them. Please make them out in duplicate.

Congregations, please send in all subscriptions *each week.* (*Organization,* p. 152) Some congregations have held them for from two to four weeks, but that should never happen. Always send a remittance form with the subscription slips.

Whenever you send in any subscriptions, even if there may be other items in the envelope, please write the word MAGAZINE on the envelope. All envelopes marked MAGAZINE will be opened quickly so we can give better service to subscribers.

The Society is ready to do its part. Presiding overseers, please help us to give good service to all subscribers.

Announcements

◆ Offer for May: *Truth* book for 25c; June: *New World Translation* and *God's "Eternal Purpose" Now Triumphing for Man's Good* on a contribution of $1.25; July: any pocket-size book on a contribution of 25c or four for $1.00; August: *True Peace and Security* for 25c.

◆ There are still congregations unable to cover their assigned territory regularly. We request that publishers or pioneers whose circumstances would allow them to go elsewhere for a few weeks or on a permanent basis write the Society, supplying the information requested on page 135 of the *Organization* book. Mention the distance you can travel. Give your letter to the presiding overseer. He along with the other committee members will review it and they will probably recommend that the branch office consider your availability. However, if anyone does not qualify, the service committee will kindly inform the applicant of the reason why they cannot recommend him and they will not send the letter to the Society's office. (Same basic procedure as outlined for pioneers, on page 137 of the *Organization* book.)

◆ A copy of the insert appearing in *Our Kingdom Service* this month is to be placed in the file of the congregation for future reference in connection with Kingdom Hall construction or operation.

◆ Pioneers, be sure to take to the district assembly your United States Pioneer Identification card for the 1976 convention for use in obtaining food tickets as well as literature at pioneer rates. Treat it as carefully as cash.

◆ Available Again in U.S.A.:

From Paradise Lost to Paradise Regained —English, French, Spanish
The Truth That Leads to Eternal Life —Romanian, Vietnamese
"Look! I Am Making All Things New" —Vietnamese
"This Good News of the Kingdom" —Vietnamese

◆ New Publications Available:

The Truth That Leads to Eternal Life —Oshindonga, Palauan, Pampango

◆ District assembly lapel cards in English and Spanish and also celluloid holders should be ordered on the Literature Order Blank. These are cash items. Lapel cards will not be available at the assembly.

◆ For your information, the Memorial date (Nisan 14) for 1977 will be Sunday, April 3, after sundown.

PRESENTING THE GOOD NEWS

By Arousing Interest in God's Word

1 Do you find it a problem to arouse interest in the Bible when you share in field service? Many of us do. To assist us, two field-tested presentations that have been used effectively are here provided. Remember, our goal is to start a Bible study, which could be done in the *Truth* book after making either of these presentations. The wording of the presentations is given as a guideline; thus, feel free to adjust the wording to fit you and/or the territory where you work.

2 (1) 'We all face many problems today, don't we? We've been asking our neighbors this question: If you had the power [or ability], what problem [or wrong] existing in the world today would you like to correct? [Allow for response; if necessary, perhaps suggest a problem.] Interestingly, the Bible informs us here at Revelation 21:3, 4 that God is going to remove all of the problems and wrongs that man faces, all that cause him pain. [Read.] Notice this illustration on page 4 of this Bible handbook. [Comment appropriately.] On page 5 we are asked: "If you had the power to do so, would you not bring to an end the conditions that cause so much sorrow? Of course you would! Should we think that the Creator of mankind will do any less? The Bible tells us that 'God is love.'" God certainly has the power, hasn't he? [Allow for comment.] But wouldn't you like to know how and when he will do it?' [Follow through in offering the book.]

3 (2) 'We're calling to share information that will help to strengthen family life and happiness. Do you feel there is anything that would help to build a stronger bond of family love? [Allow for response.] Here at Matthew 19:5, 6 Jesus said something very interesting about the family. [Read.] So God purposed for married people to be "one flesh," bonded together by love. Note how nicely this Bible handbook applies the principle so we can use it in our lives. [Read last sentence on page 170.] This can be achieved by following the Bible's counsel for building a happy family life. That is the title of this chapter [direct attention to title on page 170] in this publication. It discusses the raising of children and the settling of family difficulties in God's way, the way the Bible teaches.' [Follow through in offering the book.]

4 Have you recently prepared a presentation with someone else? Practice one or both of these presentations, with someone else acting the part of a householder. By doing so, you will become familiar with the presentations and feel comfortable and confident in using them.

A Loving Provision (*Cont'd*)

5 Additionally, you benefit indirectly in many ways from the help he gives to the elders. Profitable discussion on a variety of congregation matters makes his meeting with them beneficial to the elders. This, in turn, will radiate out to the other publishers in practical, loving ways. He has much to share from the experience he has gained in working with other congregations that have needs similar to yours. The elders will find him ready to offer practical suggestions on problems that concern them, including judicial matters, if needed. Like Paul, he will not hold back good counsel, tempered with mildness and kindness, that will help them to 'pay attention to the flock of God.'—Acts 20: 27, 28.

6 Jesus' example of "preaching and declaring the good news of the kingdom of God" is copied by the circuit overseer daily during his week with the congregation. (Luke 8:1) He will be there each day, Wednesday through Sunday, to take the lead and perhaps to work with you personally. Accompanying him (or his wife, if he is married) at a few doors may give you some new ideas, a fresh approach or a more effective way to reach those not inclined to listen. Do you have a Bible study? He will be glad to go with you on the study and even conduct it if you like. Such a week of vigorous activity can be most rewarding to you personally, as you can readily appreciate.

7 Can you take greater advantage of this provision made to help us? After considering the benefits, look forward to the next visit with heightened anticipation and interest. Surely such a provision is something to be grateful for and is designed to help you to become stronger and more firm in faith. If we all take advantage of this loving provision, then the traveling overseers will be able to report that "our visit to you has not been without results."—1 Thess. 2:1.

THEOCRATIC NEWS

◆ Commencing Friday, February 27, and over the weekend, Brother E. C. Chitty, a member of the governing body, shared in the dedication of a fine assembly hall in North London, England, that holds over 1,600 with extra seating. There was a total attendance of 6,229 for the five meetings with a repeat program, all showing a grand spirit of appreciation and enthusiasm. Work has just started on a fourth assembly hall in the British Isles.

◆ For the first time since 1953 a large supply of Bible study aids was officially permitted entry into Ethiopia. The 1,782 publishers were overjoyed to receive over 41,000 books.

◆ Despite inflation, Italy was able to report a peak of 57,310 publishers.

◆ Ghana reported 18,900 Bible studies —over 700 more than previously. Studies are being started in the new booklets.

Question Box

- Who is authorized to perform marriages or to officiate at funerals?

The December 1, 1975, *Watchtower* explained that in our congregations only elders and ministerial servants fit the term "ordained ministers" as generally used and understood. If the law of a state, city or community provides that marriage ceremonies may be solemnized only by ministers (whether "licensed," "registered" or "ordained"), then only brothers who, according to the Scriptures, are "ordained" (appointed) to serve in the congregation (elders or ministerial servants) would properly perform such marriages in the future. (There is no need to be concerned about who performed marriages in the past.)

It is necessary to check locally to find out what the legal requirements are and then to comply with them. Please do not write the Society for such information, for we do not have available the various state laws on marriage requirements.

If a couple in the congregation desire to have the marriage talk given by a brother in good standing (not serving as an elder or ministerial servant), arrangements could probably be worked out for such brother to give the marriage talk, after which one of the congregation's qualified elders or ministerial servants who meets the legal requirement to perform a marriage could administer the marriage vows. It is the administering of the vows that is customarily recognized as solemnizing the marriage.

Arrangements for the use of a Kingdom Hall for marriages should be approved by the service committee of the congregation. (See June 1975 *Kingdom Ministry* "Question Box.")

Giving a funeral talk is quite a different matter from officiating at a marriage. There is no law in the United States that determines who will give a talk at a funeral. In general the family of the deceased would choose a brother in good standing to give the funeral talk. It is their personal choice and arrangement. The one selected would not have to be one who is viewed as an "ordained minister," or, in Scriptural terms, an "assigned or appointed servant" of the congregation.

OUR KINGDOM SERVICE

JUNE 1976
Vol. 19, No. 6
FOR UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Dear Kingdom Publishers:

At the beginning of April there was a series of five meetings held in different sections of the United States with the circuit and district overseers. The Society was interested in their observations on a number of things in connection with our worship and field service and a very valuable and interesting interchange of encouragement resulted.

We thought you would be quite interested in one of the main points that was brought out rather consistently at all of these meetings. This had to do with the need on the part of all of our brothers to get better acquainted with the Bible in connection with personal study and Christian meetings and to learn how to use it to greater advantage in resolving problems as well as in preaching the good news in the field service.

Likely you have noticed too that *Our Kingdom Service* has encouraged the use of the Bible wherever possible in our public worship. Not only does this stamp us as Christ's disciples, but reading directly from it gives power and authority to our words. To get better acquainted with God's Word, many of our brothers are increasing their reading of it on a daily basis.

Over the years we have featured the distribution of the *New World Translation* twice each year in the field service. Isn't it fitting that we should do so, making the Word of God available to the people in our territory since we truly are a Bible-based congregation? Interestingly, from 1942 down to 1976, 34,330,375 copies of the Scriptures, the whole or in part, have been produced here in Brooklyn. Most of these have been copies of the *New World Translation.*

We certainly are delighted to be serving with you brothers, producing Bibles and Bible literature, and we count it a privilege to be

(*Continued on page 2, col. 3*)

Use The Bible —Its Message Is Powerful

1 "The word of God is alive and exerts power and is sharper than any two-edged sword and . . . is able to discern thoughts and intentions of the heart." (Heb. 4:12) These words indeed tell us of the power of God's word or message found in the Bible, which all of us have for use in our field service to help people to get free from false religion and enable them to learn the way of the truth.

2 The "word of God" has exerted great power in our lives in that we have been delivered from the bonds of darkness in Babylon the Great and have been equipped to use the Bible to enable others to do likewise. By using it well in our field service activity we may find many others whose hearts can be motivated to look into its message so as to treasure its lifesaving influence in their lives.

3 How appropriate that we use the Word of God in our field service, both in our conversations at the door and in offering the *New World Translation of the Holy Scriptures* to the people along with the bound book *God's "Eternal Purpose" Now Triumphing for Man's Good!* This will be the offer for June on a contribution of $1.25.

IT'S EASY TO PRESENT THE OFFER

4 To offer the Bible to people during the month we suggest a simple, straightforward approach, reading from the Bible itself. For example, you might have your Bible ready to open to Psalm 119:105 as you approach the door, and you might begin with the words of this scripture after an appropriate local introduction. By using this scripture you direct attention to the Bible that you have in your hand, which is like a lamp and a light. If the opportunity presents itself, read verse 130 also. Comment on the fact that it is God's purpose for mankind to enjoy an earth filled with righteousness and with upright people, and offer the *New World Translation* and the *"Eternal Purpose"* book, explaining that they are for those who wish to understand more of

(*Continued on page 4, col. 1*)

The Truth Is Beneficial Each Day

1 In a great many congregations our sisters are making an excellent contribution to the advancement of the Kingdom work. They work hard with their families, are zealous in field service and often put up with many problems and frustrations in order to walk in their integrity, day by day. Of course, soon now a New Order will resolve these problems. But even now our sisters, and all of us, are benefited greatly by having the truth. Have you reflected lately on how the truth can benefit you each day?

HOW THE TRUTH BENEFITS THE MARRIAGE RELATIONSHIP

2 We realize that if you have an unbelieving husband, perhaps even opposed or unbelieving children, there can be many problems in your home. But the blessing of knowing the truth and applying its principles is that we can learn to cope with our situations better. We can learn to live with problems, rather than let them get us down. For example, many of our sisters with opposed husbands have a calm spirit and lead a quiet, well-ordered life. How? The truth has helped them to look at their situation in a balanced way. These sisters have learned not to expect too much too soon from their husbands and families, and their calm, quiet spirit has been an influence for good on their husbands and other members of their family.

3 One sister thought recently that she could not endure any more mental and verbal abuse from her opposed husband. On her own she decided to separate from him, but before doing this she went to Jehovah in prayer and read carefully 1 Corinthians 7:10-16 and 1 Peter 3:1-6. She reviewed her situation with two of the local elders and obtained mature advice and help. Thereafter she decided to talk to her husband and tell him what she had thought about doing but reconsidered in the light of the Scriptures. She spoke to him kindly and respectfully, but frankly, and her opposed husband reacted favorably. He had not seen his actions objectively, but assured his wife that things would be better. The truth benefited this sister greatly because she took a wholesome, Scriptural

(*Continued on page 3, col. 1*)

YOUR SERVICE MEETINGS

WEEK STARTING JUNE 6

14 min: Song 20. Introductory comments. Lively consideration of article "Use the Bible—Its Message Is Powerful," with discussion of points and appropriate questions and answers. Include demonstration of the offer, perhaps with father teaching child to use the Bible in field, if desired. Slant from viewpoint of fathers taking family lead in public worship.

12 min: Highlight the Bible in Your Conversation. Deal with the ways in which family heads and others can use the Bible in their preaching and teaching work. Discuss with audience how to talk with: (1) A person who shows interest in integrity in government. Show how this has been a problem of long standing with mankind; and show what is the solution. What scriptures could you use? (Mic. 3:9; Hab. 1:4; Isa. 11:5) (2) A person concerned with social injustice and the poor. What scriptures would be appropriate? (Prov. 12:7, 28; Mic. 4:3, 4 or Ps. 72:13, 14) These and many other scriptures you might have listed in the front of your Bible that you use in the field in order to quickly turn to the Word of God when assisting people. *"Make Sure"* has a wealth of information to help all of us in using the Bible in the field service to Jehovah's honor.

18 min: "How Well Do You Know Your Family?" Interview parents whose mates are not in the truth with regard to: (1) How and when family study is conducted. (2) What arrangements are made for training in field service. (3) How respect is cultivated for unbelieving parent. Then have a panel of three or four who have good backgrounds in Christian living to discuss how a family can be brought closer together by (1) eating meals together, (2) praying together as a family, (3) participating in field service together, (4) sitting together at meetings, (5) working on projects together, such as cleaning the Kingdom Hall, etc., (6) training of boys and girls in day-to-day living. Chairman should make sure points are upbuilding and realistic, emphasizing benefits that result when father takes the lead in worship. Encourage brothers to take notes as to what they find practical so as to knit their families more closely together in the worship of Jehovah.

16 min: Concluding remarks. Include brief comments on Branch Letter; also cover material in "Questions from Readers" in the June 1, 1976, *Watchtower*. Song 81.

WEEK STARTING JUNE 13

8 min: Song 70. Introduction. Explain that the meeting has been arranged to discuss problems our sisters have and possible solutions. Many have opposed or indifferent husbands, difficult situations at home, etc. Want to exchange some practical suggestions. There will be opportunity during various parts of the program to express oneself, share experiences and observations, which should be beneficial to all in attendance, especially our sisters.

20 min: "The Truth Is Beneficial Each Day." Question-and-answer coverage. Allow time for local experiences primarily along the lines of those mentioned in the article. One handling the part should prepare participants ahead of time so will be most beneficial.

20 min: The Woman's Role in Strengthening the Family. Mothers usually spend more time with children in early formative years than fathers. They can be a marvelous influence for good and can have considerable impact on the habits and attitudes developed in early years. Ask audience such questions as: What should mothers discuss with their children from infancy so young minds can be molded along spiritual lines? How can mothers train children in harmony with Deuteronomy 6:6-9? How and when can mothers arrange to participate with their children in field service? How can some temporary pioneer, strengthening the family further along spiritual lines? Let the sisters and others comment on these questions, offering their observations, sharing ideas with one another. We can all learn from this.

12 min: Concluding remarks. Accounts report. Short talk on "Question Box" emphasizing main points. Then ask those in attendance what they learned from meeting. Encourage sisters to state what they have learned in a practical way. Song 29.

WEEK STARTING JUNE 20

Youths, Remember Your Creator.
—Eccl. 12:1.

7 min: Song 73. Introduction. Encourage parents and children to make this meeting their own. There will be time, especially in concluding comments, for expressions on things of a practical nature learned. Make some notes. Pay close attention to what is said and see what you can learn about cultivating a warmer, closer relationship with Jehovah and your parents.

20 min: A Child That Is a Praise to His Grand Creator. (*Aid* book, pp. 311-313) Consideration by audience participation of following points: (1) What does Psalm 127:3-5 show as to how one's children should be viewed? (2) What responsibilities do fathers and mothers have in training their children? (Prov. 1:8; 22:6; Eph. 6:4) (3) What attitude did young Jesus show toward the worship and service of his heavenly Father? (Luke 2:41-49) (4) How does Psalm 148:12, 13 show that boys and girls are to be worshipers of Jehovah God? (5) What attitude toward their parents should children have? (Lev. 19:3; Deut. 5:16; 27:16) (6) How should young children treat older persons? (Lev. 19:32) (7) What attitude should children have toward congregation meetings? (Deut. 31:12, 13) (8) Why should children also be taught respect toward those in the congregation who are looking after the spiritual interests of the brothers? (1 Pet. 5:5; 2 Ki. 2:23, 24) (9) What warning did Jesus give about children turning against their believing parents in our day? (Mark 13:12) (10) How should all children who would have Jehovah's favor conduct themselves in this urgent time?—Eccl. 11:9; 12:1.

15 min: Presenting the Good News—Together with Your Children. Question-and-answer coverage along with realistic demonstration of points in paragraph two.

18 min: Concluding remarks. Consider theme of meeting: Youths, Remember Your Creator. (Eccl. 12:1) Young people appreciate parents who spend time with them. Do you know what is in the hearts of your children? In addition to taking them with you in the field service, how can you determine this? Good to take advantage of every opportunity to inculcate knowledge and understanding of Jehovah's Word in their hearts. (Deut. 6:4-9) For example, what do your children know about the soul, paradise earth and resurrection? Make sure they understand fundamental Bible doctrines and can explain them. Good to train them to memorize at least one scripture supporting each doctrine. Also, would be beneficial to learn the nine fruits of the spirit and have a scripture to back up or support each one. Many things we can do to train our children so that in later years they will have a fund of knowledge to draw from when problems arise or issues come up. Could have parents demonstrate what one or two children in the congregation have accomplished along these lines. Fit the experiences to local circumstances and situations. Allow time for comments on what young people, especially, and their parents have learned from this meeting and what they resolve to do to improve their relationship with Jehovah and their parents. Song 71.

WEEK STARTING JUNE 27

15 min: Song 69. Introduction. "Keep the Poor in Mind." (*Watchtower,* April 1, 1976, pp. 200-202) Discuss with audience, showing the part those in the congregation play in giving attention to the poor. Emphasize and read appropriate scriptures. Not only elders and ministerial servants, but each one in the Christian congregation, is involved.

15 min: Proper Respect for Congregation Meetings. Discussion. Stress the role of elders and ministerial servants in taking the lead in showing proper respect for meetings; being at the Kingdom Hall early, being seated during meetings and not carrying on other business, unless of an urgent nature that cannot be done at other appropriate time; keeping meetings on time; parents encouraged to sit with children during meetings, children should be taught by parents to be attentive, should not be allowed to unduly disrupt meetings. Whispering excessively should be avoided as well as other distractions. Highlight thought that Kingdom Hall is a house for Jehovah's worship, and we should appreciate keeping it clean and in good repair. This part should be given in a balanced way, reasoning with the audience so that respect is built up for this feature of our Christian worship.

20 min: How Are We Doing in Spreading the Good News? A lively experience session, with audience participation regarding the work accomplished recently, including offering the Bible and *"Eternal Purpose"* book, as well as magazines and other literature. This can be in all fields of service, house to house, return visits, Bible studies, informal witnessing. Perhaps beforehand one or two can be asked to be prepared so as to get discussion started. Would be good to inquire as to how families did in sharing together in service during June. Outline current field service arrangements for the week, including holiday activity.

10 min: Concluding comments. Include appropriate items from "Announcements" and "Theocratic News." Song 52.

Branch Letter (*Cont'd*)

working with you in connection with your field service needs. May Jehovah continue to go with all of us. Please accept an expression of our warm Christian love at this time.

Your brothers,
BROOKLYN BRANCH OFFICE

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The Truth Is Beneficial *(Cont'd)*

course of action and Jehovah blessed her.

HOW THE FIELD SERVICE HELPS

[4] Often just getting out of the house and telling the good news to others has a healthful effect on our outlook. One sister says that one way she has been able to keep her joy throughout the years is to be active in the service and in helping others. (Acts 20:35) This sister finds the Kingdom Hall a peaceful place, and the joy she gets from attending meetings and being with her spiritual brothers and sisters keeps her built up for the rest of the week.

[5] But what if you have young children and want to get into the field service? One couple we know have taken their youngster along in the field service from infancy. While one conversed at the door, the other stayed by the baby carriage on the sidewalk when the child was very young. Householders were impressed. A former missionary sister tells us that, even though having a child, she continued to have fine success at the doors, for the people were fascinated by seeing her go from house to house with the baby carried on her back, and this opened many doors.

[6] Still other sisters have expressed themselves as having a most satisfied feeling by working with the pioneers on occasion, trying to accompany them for a full day wherever possible. They are built up by having valuable association with the pioneers, and there is a rich interchange of encouragement, benefiting the pioneers also. —Rom. 1:12.

HOW CAN YOUR FAMILY BEST BE HELPED?

[7] Where husbands and wives both work at secular jobs, they do well to think about the effect this has on them and their families. Is it necessary that the wife work also? Could you possibly adjust your standard of living so she is able to have more time for the children, her husband, personal study and the field service? Is it possible that more time with the children, training them in the truth at all times, is needed by your family even more than the money you earn? (Deut. 6:4-9; Eph. 6:1-4) Is it possible that a re-evaluating of priorities, especially your time, might be quite beneficial in your family? Each family has to decide what is best according to its circumstances.

[8] The truth obviously benefits us in so many ways each day. By our really applying Bible principles each day and not putting things off until a future time, the truth can be a powerful force for good in our lives, day by day. Think of the blessings we can gain: the security of really knowing Jehovah (Prov. 18:10), an increased faith so that we will not drift away from our relationship with Jehovah (Heb. 2:1), a more joyful, happy outlook (Prov. 17:22a). These and many other blessings can be ours if we make the truth our own and gain its benefits each day.

Announcements

◆ Literature offer for June: *New World Translation of the Holy Scriptures* (bi12) and *God's "Eternal Purpose" Now Triumphing for Man's Good,* for $1.25. For July: In isolated territory the *Watchtower* or *Awake!* subscription or a pocket-size publication not offered yet in that particular territory. In regular territory: A pocket-size publication on a contribution of 25c or four for $1.00.

◆ The *New World Translation of the Holy Scriptures* (bi12) is available in English, French, German, Italian, Portuguese and Spanish. The *New World Translation of the Christian Greek Scriptures* is available in Finnish, Danish and Japanese.

◆ Elders should arrange for a review of district assembly material on the service meeting. It would be good to schedule it soon after most of the congregation attends an assembly. Make appropriate adjustments in coverage of material in *Our Kingdom Service* for that month.

◆ The congregation accounts should be audited on June 1, or as soon thereafter as possible by the presiding overseer or someone appointed by him.

◆ The following new publications are available in English braille, grade two: *A Secure Future—How You Can Find It; There Is Much More to Life!; Is There a God Who Cares?* These may be obtained on a *free-loan basis* by submitting a written request to the Society, Attention: Braille Desk.

◆ The Government has announced that the Selective Service arrangement ceased to function as of January 23, so none now reaching 18 years of age will have to register. Brothers of draft age who are in the pioneer service, or elders or ministerial servants, should not request of the Society certificates to use verifying their ordination, since the draft arrangement no longer functions.

◆ As a reminder, all regular and special pioneers should bring their United States convention pioneer identification card with them to the assembly. This will be used in connection with meals and for literature.

◆ Songbook price changes as of June 1, 1976:

	Pio.	*Pub.*
Regular edition	15c	25c
Deluxe edition	60c	75c

Do You Remember?

Having read recent issues of *Our Kingdom Service,* do you remember the answers to the following questions? This is for your personal review and need not be taken up on a service meeting.

1. How do we benefit directly and indirectly from the visit of the circuit overseer?

   5/76 *Our Kingdom Service*

2. Who is authorized to perform marriages and to officiate at funerals?

   5/76 *Our Kingdom Service*

3. How can spiritual aid and encouragement be provided most appropriately through the book study groups?

   3/76 *Our Kingdom Service*

4. How can our conversations identify us in the field service? What kind of questions can start conversations?

   2/76 *Our Kingdom Service*

5. Is it proper for one of Jehovah's Witnesses to receive treatment and care at a hospital operated by a religious organization?

   2/76 *Our Kingdom Service*

6. Who owns the Kingdom Hall? How are meeting times decided on, and what factors are involved?

   5/76 *Our Kingdom Service* insert

MARCH SERVICE REPORT

	Pubs.	Av. Hrs.	Av. R.V.	Av. Bi.St.	Av. Mags.
Sp'l Pios.	665	148.9	59.4	5.5	140.8
Pios.	16,839	101.8	39.4	3.2	102.4
Temp. Pios.	6,407	80.5	25.0	1.5	83.4
Pubs.	526,133	9.2	4.2	.4	13.3
TOTAL	550,044				

Newly Dedicated Ones Baptized: 2,414

UNITED STATES GOAL FOR 1976
588,242 Publishers

HOW DID WE DO IN MARCH?

How encouraging it is to note the continuing fine field service efforts we shared in during March! In view of the fact that 7,148,062 hours were devoted in public worship, undoubtedly a powerful witness to the truth was given. As we continue to work together in the field as families, with fathers taking the lead, surely Jehovah will continue to bless and reward us greatly.

◆ New Publications Available:

God's "Eternal Purpose" Now Triumphing for Man's Good —Portuguese

One World, One Government, Under God's Sovereignty —Japanese

◆ Out of Stock in U.S.A.:

1975 *Watchtower* and *Awake!* bound volumes —English, Spanish

PRESENTING THE GOOD NEWS

Together with Your Children

[1] Do you know that one of the best ways to ascertain the spiritual growth of your children is by taking them with you in the field service? There is opportunity to converse as you walk between houses. As you listen to how they talk to householders and the answers they give to questions raised, you can learn much about how well they understand the truth and how deeply they appreciate it. At first small children might just offer the handbills or tracts, but as you train them progressively they can learn to offer the magazines, give a short Scriptural presentation, and possibly make the regular offer, eventually being able to conduct a Bible study. Surely such training and a response to it by children are a delight to observe. Really it is a demonstration of their faith growing stronger and stronger. What could be more satisfying to a parent? Suppose you have children who could be trained to give a Bible presentation. What might they say?

[2] After introducing himself, and stating that he is assisting his parents in sharing Bible knowledge with his neighbors, a young person could say: "There seem to be many problems in families today, but as a young person interested in helping families I would like to share with you some thoughts from God, who created the first family. Here in Colossians 3:18-21, God speaks about families and what each one can do to bring happiness in the family circle. Note what verse 20 says about young children. [Then read verse 20.] The Bible is filled with instructions for families, and so that each family might have an up-to-date translation of the Bible, we are offering the *New World Translation* along with this companion publication for $1.25."

[3] Or, if you prefer, you could simply say: "As a young person looking forward to the future, I'd love to see the end of pain and death. Wouldn't you? Did you know that the Bible says that time is coming shortly?" Read Revelation 21:4. Then make the offer.

[4] Training our children as Christians in every possible way and at every opportunity is not only a God-given responsibility, but a happy way of life for Christian families. (Deut. 6:4-9; 1 Tim. 5:8) If you would like to get to know your children better, what they are really thinking about, how they feel about matters, ascertaining how much they really love Jehovah, arrange time to take them with you in the field service. Truly, it will be a rewarding experience.

THEOCRATIC NEWS

◆ Australia reports that the brothers in the city of Adelaide have built a beautiful assembly hall holding 1,600 persons. It is a credit to Jehovah's worship and his people. The dedication was attended by 5,200 over two days. This is the second of such halls in Australia and two more are planned.

◆ Foreign-language circuit assemblies have already been held for the brothers speaking Spanish, French, Italian, Portuguese and Greek here in the New York city area. The brothers are thrilled to be having their own assemblies.

◆ Japan continues its theocratic progress with another new peak—36,195 publishers. During February and March, 112 special pioneers were assigned to open up 46 completely new territories.

◆ The Dominican Republic had its third consecutive peak, with 6,540 publishers.

Question Box

● What should be our view of presentations suggested in *Our Kingdom Service* designed for the house-to-house activity?

These are suggestions. We all appreciate the wisdom of being prepared to have something definite to say about the good news when we engage in field service. Presentations are provided often in *Our Kingdom Service* and give us a variety of things we might say. (1 Cor. 9:22) These are especially helpful if we are working our territory quite often. Nonetheless, we appreciate that there are many different situations and objections that come up in various sections of the country and we need to be flexible. It is good to tailor our presentations to arouse the interest of the householder.

If a presentation suggested in *Our Kingdom Service* can be adapted to local usage, you may want to make use of it. But if you have developed something that is more practical for your territory and you are able to express the thoughts more readily, you are free to use your own presentation. The main thing to keep in mind is that we are preaching the good news of the Kingdom. If we make the message clear and uncomplicated, using our Bibles to good advantage, surely we will have many blessings from Jehovah.

Use the Bible *(Cont'd)*

the light of truth contained in the Bible.

[5] Those who are fathers and mothers, are you training your children to use the Bible itself in the field? Perhaps your son or daughter could use this Bible presentation as you share together in the house-to-house work or, if you prefer, you could help your children to learn the presentation featured in "Presenting the Good News."

[6] You might also find it helpful, especially for those who are in a hurry, quickly to point out a highlight of the book we are offering during the month of June, the *"Eternal Purpose"* book. The opening paragraph sets the tone for encouraging people to obtain and read this Bible publication. It says: "Life on earth is taking on new interest for increasing numbers of people as our twentieth century nears its end." After reading that short sentence you could point out that this Bible study aid along with the Bible itself is available for the one to whom you are talking.

THE TRUTH SETS US FREE

[7] Never underestimate the power of God's Word. Use the Bible itself in your public worship from house to house, on return visits and in your Bible study work. A pioneer sister from Nebraska who began publishing in 1968 said that she had not made great effort before to use the Bible in the house-to-house work. Now the work has taken on a completely new dimension for her, so that she is enjoying her field service more and getting more people to listen. Your use of God's Word among the people has more than one purpose. Not only do they get a witness but they are helped to see that the message comes from God's own Word.

[8] Our Lord Jesus Christ demonstrated the effectiveness and power of the Word of God to help people. He knows that it is the truth, that is what he preached and he set the example for us to follow in his footsteps. His words at John 8:31, 32 show this: "If you remain in my word, you are really my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." We know the truth. We are free of false religion's grip. Our responsibility and privilege now is to help others to gain that truth and freedom. During the month of June may we prove to be highly successful in distributing the Word of God, making return visits and starting home Bible studies as we use the Bible, for its message is indeed powerful.

OUR KINGDOM SERVICE

JULY 1976
Vol. 19, No. 7
FOR UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Dear Kingdom Publishers:

It is a privilege to serve at Bethel, the hub of theocratic activity world wide. The big new press we have been expecting was delivered for erection and testing. It will help us to provide the needed literature for you brothers.

Recently Brother Knorr gave us a report on the progress of the work in six countries he visited, starting in Guatemala. The brothers have been well cared for following the earthquake there, as far as food and clothing are concerned. Small homes are being built for them and Kingdom Halls repaired. Some work is also being done to expand the branch building. And at his last stop in Venezuela, Brother Knorr found the new branch construction nearly finished.

Expansion is also continuing in Brooklyn with the renovation of the Towers building. This work is being done by a crew of 175, including many skilled volunteers. The top four floors already have been wholly renovated and four more are being remodeled. Two dining rooms, a new kitchen, laundry, and an assembly hall are also being prepared in that building. The dining rooms will accommodate 1,000 persons, and the assembly hall over 500 when completed. At present we have over 1,700, including construction workers, as members of the Brooklyn Bethel family.

The Bethel family also enjoy some fine association from visiting brothers at times. By the time you receive this, brothers will be here helping to prepare for the district assembly this summer, and it is always a pleasure to fellowship with the ones caring for the various departments. Even as this is written, students for Gilead are here from as far away as Australia, Morocco and South Africa. There are 26 students from six countries.

If some of you brothers between 19 and 35 years of age would like to share in the theocratic activities

(*Continued on page 4, col. 2*)

Be All Things to People of All Sorts

¹ To be helpful in our service we need to be able to talk with others. This means being adaptable, because we meet all kinds of people. Some will raise objections, saying that they have their religion or are busy or simply that they are not interested. Perhaps they have heard others speak against our work and so have closed their minds to the message before really hearing it. What can we do to help them?

² The apostle Paul apparently encountered objections also, so he used different approaches in speaking to different people. As he said: "To the Jews I became as a Jew . . . To those without law I became as without law . . . To the weak I became weak . . . I have become all things to people of all sorts, that I might by all means save some. But I do all things for the sake of the good news, that I may become a sharer of it with others." (1 Cor. 9:20-23) Do we also try to be adaptable in speaking to the people we meet?

FOR THOSE WHO ARE "TOO BUSY"

³ Often people will interrupt our introduction, saying, "I'm busy." It may be that the person truly is busy and would appreciate our showing consideration. In such a case we might say: "I'm sorry I caught you at a bad time. I wanted to share a thought from the Bible with you. However, since you do not have time, perhaps I can leave this (booklet, magazine or handbill) with you. Then when it is more convenient I would be happy to discuss the Scriptural thought with you." Often people accept something when this is done in a friendly way, and they appreciate our showing consideration for the fact that they are busy.

⁴ Sometimes it may suffice to assure the person that you will be brief. Some brothers look at their watch and say, "I can explain my purpose in two minutes," and they keep their promise. Instead of trying to engage the person in a conversation, you can quickly state the purpose of your call, whether to discuss a scripture, invite the person to a public talk (and suggest they read the message on the handbill), or show them the literature so they will have something to read later. It all depends on the attitude or situation of the householder. We cannot expect all

(*Continued on page 3, col. 1*)

Reaching Everyone with the Truth

¹ How many people turn you away without even listening to what you would like to say? Might they respond with interest in the truth if a different approach were used? If you come by with the magazines time after time, they may get the impression that our goal is simply to distribute magazines.

² However, what would be the response if you came to them with a Bible in your hand and began your conversation by discussing a scripture? Many have reported favorable results as a result of their doing this and have had enjoyable conversations with people who might otherwise just say they are not interested in the literature. By trying this you may find persons who will be pleased to talk with you about the Bible, and as you draw them out with questions you will find that you are reaching with the truth persons who showed little interest before.

³ Some persons in territory we cover often may still not be reached with the truth due to their work schedule. For this reason it is most helpful to keep house-to-house records so that if you do not find people at home when you call, you can try again, perhaps at a different time, until you find them home. Do you do this? Some publishers even try to get in touch with people by phone and have good results. Street work also helps us to reach people who are hard to find at home or who live in inaccessible apartments. The important thing is to reach people.—Rom. 10:14.

⁴ Although your congregation territory may be covered quite often, what about the business territories? Would some of the publishers who feel qualified like to visit some of the shops in your area for a change? Or perhaps you have territories that are not worked much during winter months or that are covered infrequently due to being out of the way. Could some of these be reached during July?

⁵ You will be interested to know that in the entire United States there are only 112 counties or parts of counties that are not currently assigned to any congregation for regular witnessing; however, all

(*Continued on page 2, col. 3*)

YOUR SERVICE MEETINGS

WEEK STARTING JULY 4

12 min: Song 50. Discussion on attributes of Jehovah that make him worthy of our worship. Consider how these affect our lives. See *"Make Sure,"* page 266.

15 min: "An Enjoyable Vacation." Discuss with questions and answers. Theocratic activities can be a most satisfying part of our vacation. Get comments from congregation on how they have worked enjoyable theocratic activities into their vacation.

15 min: Talk and demonstrations on how we can share our appreciation for Jehovah with others. Many will be working in unassigned or little-worked territory during the month. We want to use the Bible in talking with the people. Consider what literature would be most helpful for them. It may be the *Watchtower* or *Awake!* subscription, or four pocket-size books for $1. It is good to have a variety of these small books with you. In many territories one pocket-size book for 25c would be appropriate. In every case consider starting a home Bible study if possible, whether with a book or a booklet. If a study is started in a distant or isolated territory it can be continued by mail if you cannot return each week. Demonstrate which offer you feel would be most appropriate for your congregation. Have publisher use the Bible and get the householder in the conversation. Discuss fact God has a name and why it is important to know it. If *Truth* book is being used, one of the scriptures mentioned on pages 17 and 18, such as Acts 15:14, 1 Corinthians 8:5, 6 or Psalm 83:18, might be discussed. Offer demonstration of "Bible discussion" and show the start of it as time permits.

8 min: Suggest having any announcements for the congregation included in this part. The accounts report may be presented briefly. Encourage worshiping Jehovah by service on the weekend. Consider Matthew 22:37-40.

10 min: Elder interviews several young children, asking questions such as: What do you know about Jehovah? How can you know about him since you can't see him? What can you do to please him? What is Jehovah doing for his people? Draw out comments from the hearts of the children, making discussion animated, spontaneous and realistic. Song 24. Prayer.

WEEK STARTING JULY 11

10 min: Song 68. Discuss fact that all of us are invited to share in Jehovah's service if we meet certain standards he requires. This is an undeserved kindness on his part. (Gal. 1:15, 16) Mention may be made here of service arrangements or other announcements for the congregation, also of any applicable items in Announcements.

12 min: "Reaching Everyone with the Truth." To be considered by questions and answers on material. Consult with brother caring for territory. Brief demonstration, with two sisters saying they always get same territory, see same people. Brother discusses with them value of house-to-house record even for magazine work, calling back to find those not at home. Even where territory is limited, there is usually plenty for all to do. Stress paragraphs that best fit local situation.

13 min: Discussion of first part of article "Be All Things to People of All Sorts," paragraphs 1-4. To help people learn the truth we must be able to talk to them. Objection often arises that people say they are busy. This part of article may be discussed with congregation to get their suggestions on how to meet this objection. One of the suggestions may be demonstrated.

12 min: Talk, with demonstration, in response to question, How can I help? Good to build up activity in congregation book study groups especially with regard to field service and helping new ones to learn to preach. Both brothers and sisters can help others in their own book study group. Can you help someone use the Bible more effectively? Can you help someone start making return visits, or take someone along on your Bible study? You do not have to be assigned to do this but you can invite persons who are newer or who would like a companion in service to come with you. Discuss and demonstrate how sister could help another publisher in book study group in service, especially in using Bible in field. Publisher says she has "been just offering magazines, but would like to do more." Some would like to serve where need is greater, but there may be a great need in your home congregation to train and build up others spiritually.

13 min: Interview a few publishers, both young and old if possible, as to how they share in the service. Have some in congregation been assisted to progress in service recently? If so, how? Experiences may be included if time permits. Song 57. Prayer.

WEEK STARTING JULY 18
Using the Truth to Set Others Free. —John 8:32.

10 min: Song 96. Introduction, discussion of text for July 23, Matthew 13:33. We want to avoid the leaven of Christendom, help others appreciate pure teaching of truth. Mention any announcements for the congregation.

14 min: "Be All Things to People of All Sorts," part 2, paragraphs 5-8. Discuss how we might reply to people who say they have their own religion. Get suggestions from congregation as to how they handle this. Good to ask several beforehand to be prepared. Perhaps reading or paraphrasing a scripture such as John 13:35, inviting a comment, would result in discussion. Also demonstrate how we might answer.

23 min: "Presenting the Good News—As a Teacher and Disciple-Maker." Question-and-answer coverage. Include demonstration of publisher offering a study using the *Truth* book and following through with demonstration of study for the householder. Scriptures and points from pages 17 and 18 may be used.

13 min: Interview several publishers who were previously with other religions as to how they were helped to learn the truth and why they accepted it. Song 60. Prayer.

WEEK STARTING JULY 25

15 min: Song 46. Discussion of Branch Letter and Theocratic News using family setting after a meal. Mention any necessary announcements.

20 min: Scriptural discussion on theme, "Speak Truth with One Another." Discuss with audience such points as the following: Speaking the truth covers all aspects of life. Why is it necessary for a husband and wife to be honest and frank with each other? (Matt. 19:5; Eph. 5:25, 28, 33; Prov. 31:11) Parents and children should communicate freely and truthfully with one another. (Ps. 34:13, 14; Eph. 6:1-4; Prov. 4:1; 23:22-25) Speaking truth wins Jehovah's approval. (Zech. 8:16; Ps. 15:1-3; Prov. 6:16, 17) When corrective counsel is given, how do being forthright, kind, not avoiding issue, listening carefully, not jumping to conclusions, and giving Scriptural basis for viewpoint fit into the picture? (Gal. 6:1; Eph. 4:32; 1 Tim. 5:1, 2) When straightforward, appropriate counsel is given, how should it be accepted? Should one be sensitive or try to justify oneself? (Prov. 12:15; Ps. 141:5) All need to be honest with one another, communicating freely. Develop understanding, which deepens Christian relationship. Also speak the words of truth clearly and honestly to those to whom we witness.—Eph. 4:15, 25; 1 Cor. 14:8-10.

12 min: Questions of Interest. Discuss Question Box along with some items from Questions from Readers of general interest. May also use question that has arisen in field service.

13 min: Talk with audience participation on article from April 15, 1976, *Watchtower* on "Is It Possible to Know About God?" Song 44. Prayer.

Reaching Everyone *(Cont'd)*

of these have been assigned for temporary coverage this year. If your congregation does not have territory that needs more regular coverage, perhaps a neighboring congregation would appreciate your assistance to witness to some area that seldom hears the truth. The elders are free to check with neighboring congregations.

⁶ In unassigned territory or areas where it is difficult to call often it is especially appropriate to recommend the *Watchtower* or *Awake!* subscriptions so some spiritual information will reach interested people regularly. However, you may find that persons who enjoy reading would prefer getting four pocket-size books for a contribution of $1.

⁷ In territories worked more frequently, after your Scriptural presentation, you may wish to offer one of the pocket-size books, whichever one you think appropriate, and try presenting it with the idea of starting a home Bible study. Either a book or a booklet may be used to start a study. Our objective is not just to cover territory or to leave literature but to reach the people, all of them, with the truth.

APRIL SERVICE REPORT

	Pubs.	Av. Hrs.	Av. R.V.	Av. Bi.St.	Av. Mags.
Sp'l Pios.	659	148.0	59.2	5.4	142.6
Pios.	16,945	96.9	37.5	3.1	96.9
Temp. Pios.	13,829	77.8	23.5	1.3	88.0
Pubs.	513,289	9.3	4.0	.4	14.2
TOTAL	544,722				

Newly Dedicated Ones Baptized: 2,857

UNITED STATES GOAL FOR 1976
588,242 Publishers

MEMORIAL REPORT

	1976	1975
Total Attendance	1,279,075	1,248,641
Number of Partakers	4,388	4,610

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Be All Things *(Cont'd)*

people to drop what they are doing to listen if it is not convenient when we call. In some cases we might simply ask if it would be more convenient if we were to call back a little later. Or we may have to express the hope that we can talk to them another time when it is more convenient.

FOR THOSE WHO 'HAVE THEIR OWN RELIGION'

5 Another expression we sometimes hear is, "I have my own religion." We can always reply that we are glad to know that, and inquire if they do not think it is good to know the viewpoint of different people and what they believe since there are so many different religions in the country. Or we might say that we are glad to know that they believe in God, adding that we have found that most people feel that regardless of the religion to which they belong, it is good to increase one's personal knowledge of the Bible, as it contributes so much to one's faith.

6 One brother, in reply to those who say they have their own religion, remarks pleasantly: "Well now, we aren't going to fall out over that, are we? After all, the religion to which a person belongs is a personal matter, don't you agree? Our purpose is simply to encourage a study of the Bible. We are not soliciting church membership. But we feel sure that if a person learns what the Bible teaches, he or she will be a better Christian, don't you agree? What a person does with that Bible knowledge is up to him. We would be happy to show you briefly a method of family Bible discussion that millions have enjoyed."

7 If this "religious" objection is raised frequently, it may be advantageous to bring it up ourselves in our introduction, saying: "I am visiting people most of whom have their own religion. No doubt you do too, and the reason I'm stopping by is to get your viewpoint on this subject . . ."

8 You may have another reply that works well for you, or you may wish to try some of these suggestions that you think would be appropriate. Since our message is important we would like to present it to the people whenever convenient. So it is good for all of us to learn how to reply to objections, not necessarily expecting to "overcome" them, but trying to be adaptable, as Paul was. We do not desire to argue with people, but as Paul explained, "I do all things for the sake of the good news, that I may become a sharer of it with others." This should be our objective also.

An Enjoyable Vacation

1 Are you looking forward to taking a vacation? Whether it is for a few days, a week, or more, most of us look forward to the pleasant change a vacation brings from the usual routine of work. It is a period of refreshment and relaxation. It can also bring much satisfaction due to spending time doing things you may otherwise be too busy to do. Many find that their vacations are most enjoyable when they plan to include some theocratic activity.

2 For example, do you find that it is difficult to do the reading and studying that you would like to do? Some have set aside a certain amount of time each day to read the Bible or other publications they want to consider. In the relaxed atmosphere during your vacation you may find it most enjoyable not only to read but also to discuss the things you are reading, perhaps as a family.

3 Are you planning to visit some of your relatives during your vacation? If they are not in the truth it would be a fine opportunity not only to renew family ties, but also to converse about things of interest to you, what you are doing in the congregation, your convention plans, what you enjoy about the truth, etc. In the February issue of *Our Kingdom Service* we had material on the subject "Conversations Identify Us." Perhaps your conversation will also help your relatives to appreciate the truth. If interest is shown, it may also be a fine opportunity to start a Bible study. With some you might find it good to have a study using only the Bible. *Sermon Outlines* or *"Make Sure of All Things"* will give you the necessary scriptures to help you to do this, or you could use the scriptures from an appropriate chapter of the *Truth* book. This is a fine way to help those related to you.

4 Do you like to get out into the country on your vacation? Many brothers find that vacation affords them the opportunity to do some witnessing in rural areas. You would likely enjoy working in a different territory.

5 If vacation takes you away from home, you will find it especially enjoyable to meet the brothers at their Kingdom Hall. If you do not know how to locate the Kingdom Hall in the area where you will be staying, you may find Jehovah's Witnesses listed in the phone book or you may inquire of the Society by letter or phone and you will be informed of the time and place of meetings.

6 Many of us consider attending a convention the highlight of our vacation. How enjoyable it is to renew old acquaintances and make new ones at convention time, perhaps working side by side to care for some of the things that need to be done! Conventions are an important feature of our spiritual paradise, and we want to be sure to be present to take in the delightful Scriptural information that is scheduled. (Neh. 8:3, 4, 8) So in planning your vacation, if you include some theocratic activity, you will look back with pleasure over the time so wisely spent.

Announcements

◆ A series of eight special public talks is being planned for the benefit of all congregations for the weeks of November 7 through December 26. It is recommended that elders keep this in mind when making plans for meetings for the coming months. In due time, both the titles of the talks and outlines of the material will be provided to each congregation.

◆ Starting in September the subject of the circuit overseer's talk will be "What Kind of Name Are You Making with God?" District overseers will speak on the topic "Keep Seeking God's Kingdom."

◆ July literature offer: *Watchtower* or *Awake!* subscription, or four pocket-size books for $1.00, or one for 25c, depending on needs of territory. August: *True Peace and Security,* for 25c. September: Any pocket-size book for 25c.

◆ Beginning July 1, 1976, the cost of all handbills will be $1.00 per thousand. Only handbills for circuit assemblies and handbills for congregations listing the various meetings will be printed. No more handbills for circuit overseers' visits to congregations, or handbills listing the various talks to be given to the congregation, will be printed.

◆ Time may be scheduled on the service meeting for district assembly review after the brothers in your congregation have attended an assembly. Material that is deleted from the program may be rescheduled later if desired.

◆ New Publications Available:

True Peace and Security—From What Source? —Bohemian, Efik, Hiri Motu, Indonesian, Kisi, Melanesian-Pidgin, Romanian, Sepedi, Tshiluba, Ukrainian
A Secure Future—How You Can Find It —German, Spanish
Is There a God Who Cares? —German, Spanish
There Is Much More to Life! —German, Spanish

◆ Out of Stock in U.S.A.:

1976 Yearbook of Jehovah's Witnesses —English

◆ Tours at Watchtower Farms are scheduled for the same hours as at Brooklyn Bethel, namely, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Saturday morning until 11:55 a.m. There is no provision for camping, picnics or other forms of recreation.

PRESENTING THE GOOD NEWS

As a Teacher and Disciple-Maker

1 The foremost way to help people gain an accurate knowledge of the truth is by conducting Bible studies. Not all our efforts in this regard will be effective, as not all hearts respond to the truth, as Jesus explained in the parable of the sower. However, the more effort we put forth, the greater the results that will be obtained.—Matt. 13:18-23; Eccl. 11:6.

2 If you would like to conduct a Bible study, ask yourself, When did I last offer to study with someone? How many times have I suggested it in the past month? If you did suggest a Bible study, did you try to start it right at that time, or did you say you would demonstrate it at some later time? The more we talk about the possibility and try to demonstrate it NOW, the more likely we are to have the joy of starting a Bible study.

3 Since some of us will be presenting the *Truth* book this month and since many people have it already, consider how you might start a study using this publication. Most people are pleased to talk about or discuss a subject that is of interest to them. Is it "Building a Happy Family Life"? Then chapter 20 would provide fine material and scriptures to discuss. If they are interested in the prospects for the future, you could use chapter one, "Grand Blessings from God Near at Hand!" Or they may be interested in the question in chapter 8, "Why Has God Permitted Wickedness Until Our Day?" Whatever it is, let us discuss what is of interest to them.

4 Some find that rather than offering a Bible "study" it sounds more acceptable to the householder if we offer to demonstrate how interesting a "Bible discussion" on a subject of their choice can be. Then they let them pick the topic that appeals most to them. You may wish to inquire what their understanding of the subject is, asking them, in the words of Jesus, "What do you think?" You can invite them to use their own Bible to see what the Scriptures say on the subject, going on to discuss the chapter.—Matt. 18:12.

5 In conducting a study, be patient. See if you can draw out the right understanding from the student by considering the scriptures instead of telling him what the answer is. Try to reason with him so he puts the point in his own words rather than simply finding the answer in the paragraph. Do not worry about trying to cover a certain amount of material in an hour. Not all learn at the same pace. Understanding the material is the first step, but imbedding it in the heart is essential and this often takes a little longer.—Matt. 22:37.

6 Some brothers report that many persons who have studied and are desirous of baptism still have much to learn about the truth. They may have covered the *Truth* book without really understanding some things too well. Patience, repetition and review will be helpful. It may likely be that they would appreciate your continuing to study with them even after their baptism.

7 The need to get the truth well in mind applies also to those attending family studies. Our children are potential teachers and disciple-makers. Do you encourage your children to put what they learn in their own words, helping them to think about it and talk about it, or are you content if they can find a line or two that answers the question? Do you review with them things you have studied before? Can they tell you the answer at the end of the study without looking at the material? Just because you know the point and have studied it with them does not mean they know or remember it. Patience, repetition and review are helpful.

8 A well-conducted study will include preparation for service. Help the person to see how he can share with his friends, neighbors and relatives the things he is learning, and encourage him to do so. Discuss the need to be firm for what he believes even though others do not respond favorably. (Matt. 10:36, 37) Plan to take him along with you in the disciple-making work when you feel he is ready. By doing these things we will show that we truly are teachers and disciple-makers, and Jehovah will bless our efforts.—1 Cor 3:7.

Branch Letter *(Cont'd)*

of this family, you are welcome to write in and request an application. Many have enjoyed a year or so of pioneer service or other activity after finishing school, and then have taken another step forward in their theocratic career by coming to Bethel.

If you have not visited the Brooklyn Bethel home and factory, it is our hope that you will have the pleasure of doing so in coming months. It will give you a good opportunity to get acquainted with our family and the fine work that is done here to Jehovah's honor.

Your brothers,
BROOKLYN BRANCH OFFICE

THEOCRATIC NEWS

◆ The first assembly hall for Korea was finished in Pusan in April. The brothers did most of the work themselves. It will accommodate 1,200, seated on the floor according to local custom. It will serve 54 congregations in the Pusan area for circuit assemblies as well as being used as a Kingdom Hall for two congregations.

◆ Ten missionary representatives of the Watch Tower Society were just deported from Benin (formerly Dahomey) in West Africa. A number of congregations have been advised by officials not to meet in their Kingdom Halls and that they must not preach the good news from house to house.

◆ None of the 408 Witnesses associated with 11 congregations in the Friuli area of northern Italy were killed or injured during recent earth tremors. However, 59 families among them either lost homes in the quake of May 6 or are to have them demolished because they are no longer safe. Brothers in other parts of Italy, as well as in Germany and Austria, quickly provided adequate aid in the form of food, drink, clothing, funds and tents. The Society's branch office in Rome says, "Our brothers are receiving four times more help than other people." Their meetings are held mostly in the tents, and they are busy preaching the good news to others in this stricken area.

Question Box

● Is it appropriate to have several contribution boxes in a Kingdom Hall, each labeled for a different purpose?

This is something the local elders may decide if there seems to be some reason for the arrangement. As the *Organization* book states on page 149: "Contribution boxes are provided at our meeting places so that each one can have a part, 'just as he has resolved in his heart.'—2 Cor. 9:7."

On occasion (a week or so ahead of time, if circumstances permit) the elders may recommend to the congregation that whatever contributions are received a certain night be used for relief purposes. Some may find it appropriate to have a separate contribution box to start a building fund. So matters may be handled in different ways.

It is recommended that contribution boxes be provided at the various book study locations. Funds received at these locations are added to the congregation cash account and are used for Kingdom Hall expenses or for advancing Kingdom interests as the congregation may direct.

OUR KINGDOM SERVICE

AUGUST 1976
Vol. 19, No. 8
FOR UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Dear Kingdom Publishers:

In recent months it has been our joy to see quite a number of new faces here at Bethel.

Some are the children of parents who themselves once served at Bethel. These parents still have fond memories of their life here, so they encouraged their children to share in the privileges that they once enjoyed. Many here were encouraged by their parents to pioneer, and this became a steppingstone to Bethel service.

Other brothers among us have no relatives in the truth. As their knowledge of the truth increased, their desire to serve Jehovah to a greater extent grew. Today these brothers are at Bethel and are happy to be a part of a far larger family than they had before learning the truth.—Mark 10:29, 30.

Here at Bethel there are rich spiritual blessings to be enjoyed. We have association with the largest single group of the remnant of Christ's anointed brothers on earth today. Our association all day every day is with dedicated servants of Jehovah. Newcomers enjoy a four-month course in the Bethel Entrant's School, with classroom discussions on Monday evenings. For all of us there are the stimulating discussions of the daily text each morning and the *Watchtower* study each Monday evening. Several of our family have been in Bethel service for more than fifty years. Others were baptized as recently as 1975.

We encourage dedicated brothers, especially those who are single and between nineteen and thirty-five years of age, to consider prayerfully whether they could serve Jehovah and their brothers as members of the Bethel family.

We keep busy here and time passes very rapidly. Like you, we have plenty to do in Jehovah's service. (1 Cor. 15:58) We send our warm love to all of you.

Your brothers,
BROOKLYN BRANCH OFFICE

Are You Willing to Serve?

1 An extraordinary opportunity has been extended to us. It is the privilege of being Jehovah's Witnesses. Just think what that means. We have been entrusted with God's word, his message, for humankind. That message clearly points to the only government that can solve the problems of all mankind—God's kingdom. And it shows how people of all kinds can gain eternal life as its subjects. What work could possibly be more important than publicly sharing this good news from God? And what could be more lastingly beneficial? There is no other!

2 Do we individually appreciate that privilege? Does the way in which we are using our lives show that we do?

3 Jehovah is looking for willing servants, for those motivated by appreciative hearts. (Ps. 110:3) The loving provisions that He has made for us stir us to action. (1 John 4:8-10) Yes, these provisions make us want to share in the vital work of preaching and teaching the good news of God's kingdom. Jesus Christ said that this work is to continue until "the end will come." (Matt. 24:14) Though obviously close, the end of the old system has not yet arrived. Are we personally giving this work the emphasis that it deserves?

SPIRITED IN WORSHIP

4 When a person offers himself in Jehovah's service, no one sets for him a quota of hours that he is supposed to spend in sharing the good news with others. But we need to be careful not to miss the point. Jesus clearly said that Jehovah is looking for those who worship "with spirit." (John 4:23, 24) That is, they are spirited in their worship; they reflect a spirit that is appropriate to the worship of the true God. In answering the question of a man who wanted to know what was required in order to gain eternal life, Jesus showed that, first of all, one must be whole-souled in serving Jehovah. (Luke 10:25-28) That is encouraging, because it indicates that God does not evaluate us by what others are able to do; each one gives of himself according to what he as a soul

(*Continued on page 4, col. 1*)

Success with Bible Studies

1 Recently we heard some interesting experiences related by two married couples who have had outstanding success in conducting home Bible studies. With the help of God's spirit, each couple has aided between 250 and 300 persons to become dedicated praisers of Jehovah. We thought you would be interested in some of the things that they do.

2 In each case, the husband and wife care for studies as a team. They are willing to start a study with anyone, but their aim is to involve the entire family, and they find that this is easier when they make their return calls together. They really work at this. So, instead of studying with just one person at a time, more often they are studying with couples or with family groups.

3 As for the studies themselves, these are never cut-and-dried sessions, with the conductor simply asking questions and having the paragraphs read. The publishers are enthusiastic about the truth. They help people to see the value of what they are discussing. After an hour of study the people are usually surprised at how quickly the time has gone. They do not want the study to end; they have become engrossed in the discussion and want more. Where possible, the publishers stay and continue the discussion.

BE GENUINE FRIENDS

4 It is important, they feel, to be genuine friends of the people. They find that when people share a meal together, it contributes to a feeling of confidence. So, when they get a study established, they invite the couple over for a meal, and they keep in touch with them by phone during the week, answering questions and relating items of interest.

5 These publishers know that it is important for them to keep their appointments, and they expect the same from those on whom they call. If some do not do it, the publishers do not just pass it off. They endeavor to sit down and talk seriously to them about it. They let them know that this work is important, that it is not just a casual thing. If the people do not respond, they drop the study. Sometimes, of course, people are at home for the study but there is not much interest. The publishers work hard to reach their hearts. But within a month or two, if they are not responding, the pub-

(*Continued on page 3, col. 1*)

YOUR SERVICE MEETINGS

WEEK STARTING AUGUST 1

The Work of Disciple-Making

15 min: Song 1. Any needed local announcements; then Scriptural discussion. A key part of our work is the making of disciples. (Matt. 28:19, 20) One of the most enjoyable aspects of our activity. Not everyone to whom we preach is going to become a disciple, and simply giving a witness to people of all kinds is important. But God's will includes more. (1 Tim. 2:3, 4) Every day, in all our contacts, and whenever we are in field service, we should be looking for potential disciples and then be sure to follow through. Using following texts as time permits, ask audience where these interested ones were found: Matt. 9:9; Luke 10:38-42; John 4:6, 7, 39; Acts 16:26-34.

15 min: Ideas for Field Service. Let us make it our goal to start Scriptural discussions wherever possible. Discuss and demonstrate the following.

After greeting householder, you might say: 'It is true that people need many things, but what do you think is mankind's greatest need?' Listen to what householder says, show interest in it, and then direct attention to Kingdom as the solution. Read a scripture, perhaps Isaiah 9:6, 7. Then, with a view to stimulating interest in a regular Bible study, direct attention to pages 7 and 8 of book *True Peace and Security—From What Source?* Read and discuss whatever portion seems to be appropriate. If householder has Bible, encourage him to get it and show him how to use it to look up references. If householder indicates that he is too busy for a discussion today, then offer the book, but tell him that you would like to continue the discussion. Ask whether there is another time that would be more convenient.

Discuss field service arrangements for the week; encourage all to share.

15 min: "Success with Bible Studies." After reading each paragraph ask for comments from audience to highlight the main thoughts. Encourage inviting others to meetings of local congregation; briefly comment on why the public talk this week is something that will benefit both us and others.

15 min: What We Are Doing. Ask: 'How many here have ever conducted a Bible study?' 'How many would like to do so?' Tell what is being done locally, as shown by reports. Have discussion with audience, drawing from them suggestions on (1) where to find studies, (2) how to start them. Ask those now conducting studies how they got them started. Interview one or two publishers who do well with Bible studies, drawing out encouraging experiences they have had; these should be selected and reviewed in advance. Isolate a few practical suggestions from the comments they make; repeat these. In conclusion, mention again Matthew 28:19, 20; emphasize latter part of verse 20. Song 101.

WEEK STARTING AUGUST 8

15 min: Song 32. Serving, Not Position, Is Important. Scriptural discussion based on Matthew 20:20-28 and John 13:2-5. Narrate these accounts, reading short portions and commenting on them, also inviting comments from audience. Make application: (1) Keeping Kingdom Hall clean. (2) Bethel service; include information from Branch Letter. (3) Having a full share in house-to-house activity. Outline field service arrangements for the week. (4) Doing things in a personal way for our brothers; Gal. 6:10; John 13:35.

5 min: Accounts report. Commend the willing spirit reflected among Jehovah's people; illustrate with Exodus 35:5; 36:5-7, also *1976 Yearbook,* p. 211, ¶3.

15 min: "Are You Willing to Serve?" Audience participation. Include any needed local announcements here.

15 min: "Presenting the Good News —When People Say, 'I'm Not Interested.' " Connect with preceding meeting parts by showing that, in addition to being *willing* to serve, it is also important to be *prepared.* Read paragraphs, then ask questions. Demonstrate some suggestions; then ask audience what was done and why. Encourage those who conduct meetings for field service to review these points with their groups before going into the field both this week and next.

10 min: Conclude with brief comments on quality of offerings that were required under the Mosaic law and the fact that our offerings of praise in the field should also be of high quality. (Deut. 15:21; Mal. 1:8; Heb. 13:15) Encourage all to prepare and to share in field service this week; invite all to coming meetings. Song 70.

WEEK STARTING AUGUST 15

15 min: Song 20. "Fine 'Workers at Home.' " Practical discussion built around Proverbs 31:10-31, as discussed in July 1, 1976, *Watchtower.* From main points of the article, select those that would be most beneficial for general discussion in your congregation. With questions, draw comments, particularly from sisters, as to *how Bible principles govern them in specific matters as they care for the interests of their families.*

8 min: Question Box. Theocratic News. Needed local announcements.

17 min: "Should You Vary Your Initial Approach?" After reading each paragraph ask questions to highlight main thoughts. Demonstrate several suggested approaches.

12 min: Pitfalls to Bible Studies' Becoming Successful.

Bible study overseer asks if brothers have ever stopped to analyze most common reasons why persons stop studying. He then has series of *fast-moving* interviews with persons representing individuals who discontinued their studies. *Keep each one very brief;* cover all five, or as many as you believe will be most beneficial locally. After each brief interview, have someone in audience ready to read scripture and then very briefly discuss solution with audience. (Emphasize how to overcome problem in each case.) First interview woman who discontinued study because it was not conducted regularly. Woman did not know when publisher was coming. (Read 1 Corinthians 14:40.) Another student stopped after learning a few basic Bible truths. While she had head knowledge, heart was not touched. (Read Proverbs 4:23; you might also *briefly* comment on key thoughts in paragraphs 10, 11, 13 and 14 on pages 76 and 77 of *School Guidebook.*) Still another enjoyed study, but not prepared for opposition from relatives and neighbors. (Read 2 Timothy 3:12; also point out that information in *Truth* book, page 16, paragraphs 12 and 13, may be used to help a beginning student.) Next, a woman stopped because publisher not prepared. After reading question, publisher kept eyes buried in book until householder answered questions. Felt she was not being taught. (Read Romans 2:21.) Another woman was studied with who had a family, but other family members were never invited to sit in. Publisher would hardly speak when other family members entered room. Husband, not understanding what was taking place, encouraged wife to discontinue study. (Read Galatians 5:22 [kindness], also Romans 12:13b.)

8 min: Comments on 1 Corinthians 9:19-23, with application to field service. Brief comments to whet appetite for upcoming meetings. Song 89.

WEEK STARTING AUGUST 22

Preparing as a Family for Christian Service

15 min: Song 63. Talk and discussion with audience on importance of family study. Draw material from February 15, 1971, *Watchtower,* pages 104-107. Might include some interviews. Emphasize giving thought to what would be most beneficial for the family to study together, also how to do the studying so that the family will really understand it and be able to use it.

Cover any needed local announcements here.

35 min: Getting Ready for School. (One brother may be assigned to handle this portion of the meeting, or the assignment may be divided among several brothers.)

(8 min.) Start with father talking to his son about going back to school. Son is not very enthusiastic about it; so father reasons with him as to why important: A legal requirement, and obedience to law affects one's relationship with God. (Titus 3:1, 2) Bible encourages learning to read and speak well, to be able to work with our hands to support ourselves and our families; knowledge of history and current events can help us when witnessing, to aid others to appreciate fulfillment of prophecy and need for Kingdom.

Son says he gets discouraged by the atmosphere, the disrespect for teachers and others; and the fact is, all the students know that some of the teachers do not live very good lives. Father refers back to Titus 3:2; also shows that apostle Paul was respectful even toward a king who was known to be immoral. (Acts 26:2; *Aid,* p. 760, ¶4) By respectful attitude we give a witness, honor Jehovah.

(17 min.) Discuss with young folks in the audience the situations that arise in school that put their Christianity to the test. Ask them in advance to offer suggestions; take these up on the meeting. Might consider birthday parties, Halloween, school ceremonies, use of drugs and smoking, styles of dress, and so forth. In each case ask the young folks why we take the position we do; explain from the Bible.

(10 min.) Opportunities to Witness. Ask audience what opportunities there are in school to witness. Demonstrate witnessing to fellow students: one scene may be fairly short, just conversation; another more extensive, using Bible.

10 min: In conclusion, point out that what we have done here tonight is something that can beneficially be done frequently in our own homes. Comment on Deuteronomy 6:6, 7. Show that instruction from God's Word should not be reserved only for formal study periods but can be a natural, enjoyable part of everyday life. Song 73.

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Should You Vary Your Initial Approach?

1 Our first objective in going from house to house is to gain an attentive ear. In frequently worked territory, many publishers find it helpful to vary their initial approach when covering the same area. Of course, there is no reason to change something that works well for you. However, if you seldom get past your opening words, you may find the need to vary what you say initially.

2 How might this be done? You might say: "I would like to leave this printed message on the subject [read subject on back of handbill and offer to householder]." Then use the topic you feature from the handbill as a basis for your Scriptural presentation. The reverse side of the handbill may highlight such scriptures as Revelation 21:4; Matthew 24:3 and Micah 4:3, 4. An interesting conversation could be built around any of these texts. Especially in territories where the handbill has not been commonly used to introduce the message, it may capture the householder's interest.

3 Questions, too, can arouse interest. You might ask: "What do you think might be done to upgrade the quality of life today?" Or, "What do you feel is mankind's greatest need at present?" Another question could be: "If you could remedy just one problem facing mankind, what would you change?" Then use a scripture that fits the householder's thinking, ultimately drawing attention to the Kingdom.

4 A question, along with an illustration in a publication, might attract immediate interest. For example, you could point to the picture on page four of the *Truth* book and ask: "Would you like to live in a place like the one pictured here?"

5 In varying our approach, we might also consider when we call. By varying the time of the day and the day of the week, we may be able to meet members of a household who seldom hear the good news. We may find that certain times and days are more convenient for such people and they may be more willing to listen. Have you considered working from house to house or following up not-at-homes on Saturday afternoons? Or, what about doing such service in the early evening hours when many are at home and in a relaxed frame of mind? If we can make some adjustment in our schedules, possibly more sheeplike ones could be located.

6 From time to time, it is good to analyze our approach to see if adjustments would be beneficial in aiding us to start more conversations, and would enable us to have more opportunities to declare the good news.

Announcements

◆ Literature offer for August: *True Peace and Security*, for 25c. For September: Any pocket-size book, on a contribution of 25c.

◆ The October 8 *Awake!* and October 15 *Watchtower* will be special issues. Be sure to order early the extra copies that you will need. It would be helpful if the present field overseer would care for this before the end of August.

◆ Each congregation will receive two Literature Inventory forms and should take an actual count of campaign literature in stock as of September 1. Cash items, such as *Aid* book, large-print Bible, *Concordance*, etc., should NOT be counted in your inventory. Please fill out the forms and return the original to us no later than September 6. Keep the carbon copy for your files.

◆ It is requested that on the next literature order for the congregation, presiding overseers order 12 monthly congregation report cards, 12 report cards for each regular pioneer, report-desk envelopes and other forms needed for the 1977 service year.

◆ The Society is now transcribing the braille *Watchtower* with current material taken, in most cases, from the fifteenth-of-the-month issue of the English *Watchtower*. The partner arrangement will remain in operation and the second reader will be the one to keep and use the magazine. This will allow the second reader (they alternate each month) to be able to comment and follow along at the *Watchtower* study at least twice every other month. This will no doubt be a spiritual boost to our blind brothers. Any who may not have subscribed for the free braille magazine before are encouraged to do so.

◆ New Publications Available:

A Secure Future—How You Can Find It —French, Portuguese
Is There a God Who Cares? —French, Portuguese
There Is Much More to Life! —French, Portuguese

A Note to Elders

- At the meeting of the body of elders early in September arrangements should be made for rotation of assignments of oversight.
- The one who has been presiding overseer for the past year is to prepare a year-end report, read it to all the elders and send it to the Society.
- After new assignments of oversight have been worked out, it would be appreciated if the elder who filled any given position during the past year would arrange to spend time with the newly assigned brother to acquaint him with details concerning the work. Additionally, each one would do well to study carefully details concerning his assignment as set out in the *Organization* book.
- If the congregation's permanent address, which is on file with the Society, can still be used, please do not change it simply because there is a new presiding overseer.

Success with Bible Studies (*Cont'd*)

lishers use their time elsewhere. These brothers work to support their households, their time is limited, and they want to spend it where it will do the most good. In one town, one of these couples had forty-six studies in a period of eight months, none of which developed. But because they did not waste a lot of time with those who really lacked appreciation, they were able to help those who really wanted the truth. Eight other studies in that area yielded productive Witnesses.

6 To get people to congregation meetings, they start talking about these right away. Especially do they endeavor to stimulate interest by mentioning questions that are going to be answered at a particular meeting. They ask whether that interests the couple; if so, they urge them to come.

7 Week by week they bring along things designed to acquaint newly interested ones with the organization. Sometimes there are newspaper clippings about the Witnesses, perhaps a convention report from years past, or a scrapbook with pictures relating to the organization and people in it. These publishers are enthusiastic about the organization; the newly interested ones respond, and, where possible, an early visit to Bethel further stimulates their growing enthusiasm.

8 To avoid needless stumbling blocks, they tell people from the start that Jehovah's Witnesses are just normal people with imperfections, that they should not expect to find perfect people in the congregation, but that they will find people who love Jehovah and want to serve him, people who pray for forgiveness when they make mistakes and who try to improve.

9 In the past thirty years, most of their new studies have come from the house-to-house work along with revisits, also from contacts as a result of secular work and from referrals.

10 In summing matters up, they say that what is needed is to be willing to give of oneself all the time, not just an hour a week. It is not just a matter of "here are a few scriptures and that's it." Rather, as the apostle Paul wrote to the Thessalonians, "we were well pleased to impart to you, not only the good news of God, but also our own souls, because you became beloved to us."—1 Thess. 2:8.

PRESENTING THE GOOD NEWS

When People Say, "I'm Not Interested"

1 What do you say to a householder who immediately tells you: "I'm not interested"? When this objection is raised, we need to exercise discernment. If you can ascertain the reason for the householder's comment and respond accordingly, you will be more likely to succeed in continuing with your presentation of the good news. Ask yourself, *How* does he say it? Adamantly? sincerely? firmly? What is his tone of voice, his manner or bearing? Any one or more of these things may be clues as to what is in his heart.

2 While we do not want to be easily turned aside, if we are overly insistent or "pushy" we may leave an unfavorable impression, which will make it more difficult for the next Witness who calls.

3 If you detect that the householder will not talk with you, you might simply leave a handbill. If his statement is not so firm, you might ask: "Are you interested in knowing why someone you do not know is coming to your door, especially when no doubt you realize it's not an easy thing to do? [Pause for reply.] Let me *leave* you with this *one* Scriptural thought as to why."

4 One brother tries to get a conversation started by inquiring: "Oh, you've had Jehovah's Witnesses call at your home before, haven't you?" He advises: "If they answer Yes, that's the beginning of a conversation!" If the householder says he is still not interested, the brother goes to the next door. Another brother responds: 'Many say that, but possibly you would be interested to know that very soon now all wickedness will be removed from the earth. Note what is stated here . . . ' In this way he endeavors to stimulate interest.

5 When the householder recognizes you as one of Jehovah's Witnesses, you might say: 'I find that some people aren't much interested in other religions, but many are interested in the Bible. [Pause.] That's what I came to discuss.' Another reply might be: 'Your remark is not unusual, because there is a general lack of interest in religion today, but this doesn't mean you have no interest in the Bible itself, does it? Many people we meet still have confidence in the Bible.'

6 Some find it helpful to bring up the objection before the householder does, by saying: 'I am looking for people who still love God and what he has to say at a time when many say they are not interested.'

7 These suggestions can be adapted or adjusted to your personality so they are natural for you. When handling such objections show by your manner that you are calling as a friend and are interested in the householder as an individual. A concerned, kind voice often serves to relax the householder. Also, if you can get him to talk and express himself, he will be less defensive.

8 Our concern is to find God's "sheep" and our methods should attract reasonable persons.

Are You Willing to Serve? (*Cont'd*)

is; some have more strength or better health than others. At the same time, it puts us to the test, because it calls on us to show what is really in our hearts, to use our entire life in a way that is consistent with the love for God that we profess.

5 It is noteworthy that those who are described in the book of Revelation as surviving the "great tribulation" are those who 'are rendering sacred service to God day and night.' (Rev. 7:9, 10, 14, 15) They are not simply interested observers. They are not merely Kingdom Hall attenders. Every aspect of their lives is built around their relationship with God. Is that true of us as individuals?

6 We surely want it to be so in our case. But some may realize that adjustments need to be made.

Many fine suggestions are being offered this summer at the "Sacred Service" District Assemblies to aid us in every aspect of our service to God. Now, while that counsel is fresh in mind, is a good time for all of us to make diligent effort to apply it.

7 Clearly, there is work to be done in extending the word of life to others. The question for each one to ask himself is, Am I willing to serve?

MAY SERVICE REPORT

	Pubs.	Av. Hrs.	Av. R.V.	Av. Bi.St.	Av. Mags.
Sp'l Pios.	667	142.7	49.3	5.1	105.3
Pios.	16,445	97.8	33.7	3.2	73.6
Temp. Pios.	11,175	76.6	18.0	1.2	49.2
Pubs.	537,193	10.2	3.4	.4	9.4
TOTAL	565,480				

Newly Dedicated Ones Baptized: 2,873

UNITED STATES GOAL FOR 1976
588,242 Publishers

THEOCRATIC NEWS

◆ We are glad to report that in Mozambique the brothers were able to celebrate the Memorial in the Milange refugee camps. An incomplete report shows 15,697 in attendance.

◆ From Sierra Leone comes a report of a new peak of 1,200 publishers; one out of every four engaged in pioneer activity. The Memorial attendance (triple the peak of publishers) and new peaks in return visits and Bible studies give promise of further increases to come.

◆ For the third consecutive month Israel reports a new peak in publishers; 276 shared in field service in April.

◆ In Papua New Guinea a new peak of 711 reported field service. The greatest witness ever given there in a single month was accomplished as 13,864 hours were spent in the service. New territories are opening up.

◆ There has been excellent response to the distribution of "Kingdom News" No. 22. Here in Brooklyn we have received requests for 9,317 booklets. The responses were over two and a half times as numerous as those following any other of these campaigns.

Question Box

● What might be done to assure that our service meetings conclude with emphasis on spiritual matters?

When a service meeting concludes with a fine Scriptural discussion or with practical counsel for our field service, it has a wholesome effect on all of us. But, as we know, this meeting not infrequently ends with an extensive list of announcements, many of which are quite similar from week to week.

Of course, there are announcements that need to be made, but with some forethought perhaps many of these could be handled in other ways. Might reminders about cleaning the Kingdom Hall, for example, be given at the book study locations to the groups assigned for that week? Details concerning plans for field service may, at times, be fitting at the end of a meeting, but often they could be included in an earlier portion of the service meeting program that directly discusses field service. Also, if some portion of the meeting includes thoughts about showing loving concern for fellow Christians, might not this be a good place to work in any needed remarks about visiting any publishers who may be ill or in need of encouragement? If there are miscellaneous announcements that really need to be handled and that do not fit the program for the evening, why not simply take a few minutes for them toward the beginning of the meeting, perhaps during or after one of the earlier parts?

In this way, the conclusion can be used for upbuilding Scriptural exhortation, for warm encouragement to share in field service, for review of fine points learned and perhaps for some brief thoughts to whet everyone's appetite for the forthcoming public talk and *Watchtower* study. It is beneficial to have a well-qualified brother handle this part.

OUR KINGDOM SERVICE

SEPTEMBER 1976

Vol. 19, No. 9

FOR UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Dear Kingdom Publishers:

As we carry on our sacred service here, we are encouraged to hear good news from visitors who come our way. Recently we rejoiced to hear a report from Brother Harold King from Hong Kong. For many years most of the missionaries serving there found little response, but in the last two years things have changed. Many younger people from fifteen to twenty years of age are accepting the truth and taking their stand on the side of God's kingdom. In one rural area some interested youths had been studying and had even participated in field service, but they had not yet been immersed. All nine wanted to share in temporary pioneer service, so a special baptism was arranged for the group, and immediately following immersion they went into the temporary pioneer service.

Recently at the assemblies there have been, on an average, forty newly dedicated persons immersed in Hong Kong. Because of crowded living conditions it is often a problem to conduct studies with the interested ones, for others in the family oppose. Therefore studies are sometimes conducted in the open or in parks or in homes of other interested persons. Also Kingdom Halls are well used, with small groups having studies or going over secondary articles in the magazines. Or one who knows English explains what newer books not yet available in Chinese have to tell. There are now nine congregations in Hong Kong. The number of publishers in Hong Kong increased from 278 in 1973 to 548 this past service year; 1,358 attended the Memorial. In April there were 158 temporary pioneers. Congregation publishers averaged 16.9 hours in field service and placed, on an average, 23.6 magazines. All this activity surely means that there will be more theocratic increase in Hong Kong.

(*Continued on page 2, col. 3*)

Continue to Proclaim the Good News

1 How did you learn the truth? Was it through your parents, other relatives, fellow workers or someone who called at your door? Whatever the case may be, are you not grateful that someone took an interest in you, helping you to learn who Jehovah God is and how to imitate him? That knowledge has opened up to you the opportunity to gain everlasting life. —John 17:3.

2 When we recognize the value of knowing Jehovah God and Jesus Christ, we are moved to do what we can to aid those who show interest to learn more about the Bible. (1 Tim. 2:3, 4; Matt. 7:12) The new service year will offer many opportunities for assisting people to become disciples of Jesus Christ.

NOT TOO DIFFICULT

3 Do you feel that it is somewhat difficult to help interested persons? Is this because you need experience? Well, all of us need to continue learning about the Bible. And, individually, we may have limitations. Some find it difficult to express themselves. Others may feel that they do not have enough knowledge. However, we are not called upon to proclaim what we do not know. Jesus instructed his disciples to tell what they did know about the Kingdom. (Matt. 10:7) And all of us know at least something about that subject.

4 Our success in the field service is not determined by the quantity of literature we place. Our desire is to give a witness about the Kingdom and to reach hearts with the truth. So when completing a period of field activity, we might ask ourselves, With how many people did I speak about the Kingdom today?

5 As pointed out in the February 1976 issue of *Our Kingdom Service,* there are various ways to start conversations with people about the truth. Questions are very effective. Then, too, being a good listener will help us to know the thinking of the person with whom we are speaking. This will make it easier to present the truth in a way that may capture his interest. It is good

(*Continued on page 7, col. 1*)

Prepare to Make Return Visits

1 We have good reason to want to help others to gain an accurate knowledge of God's Word. This requires calling back on any who manifest some interest in the Kingdom message, whether they accept literature or not. Is this something difficult that only a few in the congregation can do? No.

2 Making return visits is really very simple. It may be just a matter of inviting an interested person to the public meeting. Or, you might share with him a point from a magazine article that you enjoyed and offer him the latest issues. Then, again, you could read just one scripture and make a brief comment about it. Doing any of these things is all that is needed to make a return visit that should be reported to the congregation.

3 But what can you do to prepare for making productive return visits? First you need to know where the interested person lives. So preparation starts on the initial call when you write down the address. Perhaps you will need to remind yourself of keeping a record, for many have not as yet cultivated this good habit. Then, too, a good practice is to double-check that you do have the correct information. Other things might also be noted—the person's name, what you talked about, what seemed to interest him, the time he would most likely be at home, what literature, if any, was placed, and the like.

4 Then, perhaps the day before you decide to make certain return visits, why not get out your records? Take a few minutes to think about the people to whom you spoke about the Kingdom. What do you want to accomplish? Perhaps it is just a matter of sharing a Scriptural thought to build up the person's confidence in the Bible. It may be that you could start a Bible study with him. Or, if he is not ready for that but enjoys reading the publications, you may wish to leave him the latest copies of the magazines.

5 It may take repeated calls before you gain a person's confidence. Each time you may be able to say little, perhaps sharing only one scripture with him. Nevertheless,

(*Continued on page 7, col. 2*)

YOUR SERVICE MEETINGS

WEEK STARTING AUGUST 29

20 min: Song 18. Field overseer considers with audience what constitutes a return visit. See *Organization* book, pages 126, 127. Informs congregation how many Bible studies apart from family studies were conducted during the year and how many were baptized and started in the field service. Discusses God's compassion for people. (Jonah 3:10; 4:11) Encourages audience to imitate God, thinking in terms of helping people when sharing in field service. Announcements on field service arrangements.

20 min: Highlighting the value of using the Bible with the offer for the month. Ask audience why we leave literature with people. Emphasize that the basis for our preaching is the Bible. Publications help householder appreciate value of the Scriptures and how they benefit him and his family. Then ask audience what chapter in the *Truth* book might be featured after Scriptural discussion and what texts could be read. (Have prepared comments.) After two or three answers proceed with the following demonstration: An experienced publisher, after greeting the householder, asks: "Have you ever asked yourself, Why does God permit so much suffering?" After householder's reply, publisher reads 2 Peter 3:8, 9 and directs his attention to *Truth* book (Chapter 8) for further information.

Then discuss with audience how the same presentation can be used with the *Evolution* book and the *Peace and Security* book (Chapter 5).

Conclude with another demonstration, using the same scripture but featuring the *Peace and Security* book. Householder refuses literature offer. Ask audience why we should make a note of this call. Inform congregation that this month the service meetings will discuss the return visit activity and how we can share in it. Meetings will show that everyone can share and that it is not too difficult. Encourage audience to think about people whom they might call on to stimulate further interest in the Kingdom message and, with them in mind, to take note of what is said on the service meeting programs.

20 min: "Continue to Proclaim the Good News." Question-and-answer discussion. Read paragraphs and consider the scriptures. Conclude the discussion of article in a warm, appealing manner, all local announcements having been cared for earlier. Song 25.

WEEK STARTING SEPTEMBER 5

25 min: Song 58 and local announcements. "Doing Work with a Good Conscience Before God and Men" (Insert). Elder discusses with audience material down to subheading "Seeking Balance in Our View of Employment." Base questions on the scriptures used, having selected texts read by audience. Read all the paragraphs under the heading "The Major Questions," doing so before discussing each paragraph.

8 min: Joys of Making Return Visits. Emphasize importance of disciple-making and interview two publishers who might relate personal experiences on joys of helping people to learn the truth.

12 min: "Prepare to Make Return Visits." Couple approach Bible study overseer, asking about how they can prepare for return visits. They feel that it is hard. Elder highlights simplicity and joy of the work.

15 min: Discuss purpose of our field service. (Matt. 28:19, 20; 2 Cor. 2:17–3:3; explain meaning of texts and tie in with need to make return visits.) Highlight Paul's concern about spiritual state of fellowmen. (Rom. 9:1-3; 10:1) If he was so interested in those who even persecuted him, should we not rightly reflect deep concern for persons showing some interest? Involve audience in thinking about people whose interest they might stimulate in truth—neighbors, fellow workers, teachers, schoolmates, someone contacted in field. Make it clear that *all* have return visits that could be made. (*Organization*, page 126) Song 52.

WEEK STARTING SEPTEMBER 12

15 min: Song 68 and local announcements. Talk on Study 18 of the *School Guidebook*, paragraphs 8-10. Show audience that there is no need to fear objections people present in the field service. Highlight how God's spirit helps us.

10 min: "Presenting the Good News—When People Are Not at Home." The one handling this part will go right into a question-and-answer discussion.

20 min: Things that could be done toward making return visits. Consider with a prepared panel the following questions: (1) Why should we keep a house-to-house record? (2) Why is it good to make a return visit as soon as possible? (3) What advantage is there if we can greet the householder by name? (4) How might we make the purpose of our call clear to the householder? (5) What factors might determine the length of our discussion with the householder? (6) If we have an opportunity to talk with him, why might it be good to encourage him to use his own Bible? (7) Why is it best to keep the conversation simple? (John 16:12) In answering questions, prepared publishers might illustrate with personal experiences.

15 min: "Buying Out the Opportune Time." Talk based on *Organization* book, page 110 paragraph 3 to page 112 paragraph 2. Encourage giving good support for afternoon activity when circuit overseer serves with congregation, as this time is set aside for Bible studies and return visits. Mention benefits of working with circuit overseer and his wife. Ask how many have talked about Kingdom with someone or placed magazines. Then encourage all to follow suggestions made this month in following through with return visits. Song 117.

WEEK STARTING SEPTEMBER 19

13 min: Song 118 and local announcements. Imitating Our Happy God. Lively discussion among several publishers based on Branch Letter and their own experiences in serving Jehovah; also Theocratic News.

JUNE SERVICE REPORT

	Pubs.	Av. Hrs.	Av. R.V.	Av. Bi.St.	Av. Mags.
Sp'l Pios.	609	133.3	51.0	5.1	121.2
Pios.	15,500	91.1	33.9	3.1	87.7
Temp. Pios.	4,994	77.4	19.0	1.2	70.8
Pubs.	492,388	8.6	3.6	.4	11.3
TOTAL	513,491				

Newly Dedicated Ones Baptized: 4,372

UNITED STATES GOAL FOR 1976
588,242 Publishers

2 min: Accounts report.

30 min: "Doing Work with a Good Conscience Before God and Men" (Insert). Elder discusses material from "Seeking Balance in Our View of Employment" down to "If He Has Doubts." At outset, prepared publishers can briefly state employment problems that come up locally and are mentioned in the insert. To the extent that time allows, read previously selected paragraphs before asking questions. Base questions on scriptures and aid all to make the correct application.

15 min: "Help Others to Make Return Visits"; also Question Box. Question-and-answer discussion. Warm conclusion encouraging all to make at least one return visit this week. Song 103.

WEEK STARTING SEPTEMBER 26

25 min: Song 81 and announcements. Elder handles. Doing Work with a Good Conscience Before God and Men. Finish insert, starting from "If He Has Doubts." Questions and answers on section "If He Has Doubts," and have this portion of the insert read. Remainder of insert discussed by two or three elders, emphasizing their own responsibility in the matter.

15 min: Based on his report for the service year, presiding overseer can share with congregation what was accomplished, concentrating on positive aspects; include encouragement to continue having full share in field service in harmony with Jehovah's desire that people attain to repentance.—2 Pet. 3:9, 10.

20 min: This portion of the meeting can be used to consider what needs attention locally. Song 65.

Branch Letter *(Cont'd)*

In Idaho where failure of the Teton River dam caused a flood disaster, twelve families among the brothers lost homes and all belongings. None of the publishers lost their lives. Quickly brothers from surrounding areas provided relief. Publishers who were not affected opened their homes to accommodate families who lost everything. Food, clothing and household supplies were donated in abundance. Relief funds were sent from Brooklyn. Brothers are getting some aid from government assistance programs. Kingdom Halls were not destroyed in the flood. It is encouraging to see how loving brothers help one another in times of need.—Acts 11:29, 30.

All of us continue to show interest in others by using our many opportunities to speak of the good news and comfort those who have cause to mourn. Surely the new service year will prove to be a productive one with much praise to the name of Jehovah.

Your brothers,
BROOKLYN BRANCH OFFICE

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Doing Work with a Good Conscience Before God and Men

AS JEHOVAH'S devoted servants we should be an industrious people, 'doing with our hands what is good work, that we may have something to distribute to someone in need.' (Eph. 4:28) While engaging in productive labor, we should want to be sure that our employment does not conflict with Bible principles. Otherwise we would be unable to heed the inspired admonition: *"Whatever you are doing,* work at it whole-souled as to Jehovah."—Col. 3:23.

Though concerned primarily with being pleasing in God's eyes, we should also be thoughtful of our fellow humans. We want to avoid that which would cause these to be unnecessarily offended or which would give rise to reproachful criticism of the "good news."—Compare 2 Corinthians 4:2.

Along with this, we must be realistic about employment. As in other activities of life, we cannot avoid all contact or relations with this world's greedy persons, extortioners, idolaters and fornicators. Otherwise, as the inspired apostle wrote, "you would actually have to get out of the world." —1 Cor. 5:9, 10.

A Christian may work for an employer who is not fully honest. But, as long as the Christian does not personally share in or promote wrong ways, he does not thereby become responsible. A secretary, for example, could not reasonably be expected to pass judgment on every statement that her employer dictates to her for transcribing into letters. She must let him bear the responsibility for any lack of truthfulness or fairness in what he dictates. But if his dishonesty becomes sufficiently extreme, so that his business comes into serious disrepute, her conscience may move her to seek other employment.

Actually, everything connected with this sinful world has some undesirable features. This, then, calls for our using discernment to determine what is truly objectionable for the Christian worker and what is—even though in some respects not fully desirable—nevertheless allowable from the Scriptural standpoint.

God's Own Example

To guide us in taking a balanced view toward employment, we have the example that Jehovah God sets in his attitude toward mankind. "He makes his sun rise upon wicked people and good and makes it rain upon righteous people and unrighteous." (Matt. 5:45) God has not limited the wicked to the barest essentials of life. He has even been generous in allowing them to benefit from his provisions.—Acts 14:17.

By not discriminating between the righteous and the wicked in their receiving the benefit of his provisions, is God guilty of approving or condoning the idolatry, fornication, thievery and the like that the wicked practice? Obviously not, as he has shown in his acts at the Flood and at other times of divine judgment. Nor is he thereby encouraging them to keep on in lawless practices. There is no clear connection or direct link between their benefiting from the sun, rain, wind and other provisions and their sinful practices. Really, by his undeserved kindness to the wicked, Jehovah God is patiently maintaining an appealing basis on which to exhort the unrighteous to abandon their wrong ways and turn to him.—Rom. 2:4-6; Ezek. 33:11.

God's servants, therefore, can conscientiously render many human services to worldly persons without discrimination. Such humans are, after all, the property of God and Christ, having all been purchased with the precious blood of the Son of God. (Matt. 20:28; 1 Tim. 2:5, 6) Though not all respond, God's desire is for all to repent and gain salvation, not to perish. (2 Pet. 3:9) So we rightly treat our neighbors among mankind in harmony with that fact. We are also governed by the principle: "All things . . . that you want men to do to you, you also must likewise do to them." (Matt. 7:12) We appreciate it when people do not discriminate against us in supplying food, clothing, shelter, transportation and other essentials in the form of goods and services. In turn, we should be willing to render common services to others.—Rom. 13:8-10.

The Major Questions

Clearly there is a difference between doing work that benefits people just as fellow humans and work that directly fosters or directly gives support to wrong practices. The principal question is: "Does the work or activity to be performed *in itself* constitute an act condemned by God's Word? Or, if it does not, is it nevertheless so *directly linked* to such condemned practices that it would make those doing such work actual *accomplices* or *promoters* of the wrong practice?" In such cases Christian conscience should surely cause them to reject such employment.

To illustrate, we do not want others to commit violence against us, poison our bodies, seduce us into immorality or into idolatrous worship. Certainly, then, we could not engage in the manufacture, sale or promotion of things specifically designed for such purposes, such as harmfully addictive drugs, pornographic material, idol images and similar things. How could we teach others that the use of such things is Scripturally wrong and at the same time work in directly producing them or promoting their use? Such work would be wrong in itself.

Other work may be proper in itself but nevertheless wrong because it is an integral part of a wrong operation or activity. Being a cashier is in itself proper employment. But what if one served as a cashier in a gambling establishment? The practice of gambling is out of harmony with God's Word, which condemns greediness and commands doing honest, productive work. (1 Cor. 6:9, 10; Eph. 4:28; 1 Thess. 4:11, 12) Though the cashier might not actually do any gambling, in the way that a card dealer does, would not his (or her) work involve the selling of the gambling chips that form an essential part of the operation? Would this not also be true of the individual whose work consists of repairing and maintaining the gambling equipment, such as slot machines, roulette wheels and similar things? There is clearly a direct link between the work done and the wrong activity itself.

Seeking Balance in Our View of Employment

But if the employment consists of work that is not of itself Scripturally wrong and is not directly linked to wrong practices, there may be other factors that the Christian will need to weigh when making a conscientious decision.

For example, working as a cook in a restaurant is an honest employment, food being something that all humans use and need in common. But what if one worked for a chain of restaurants, one of which was located within the grounds of a racetrack? Serving as a schoolteacher is proper employment. But what if the school is one owned by a religious organization that is not genuinely Christian? Serving as a housemaid is also proper employment. But what if the maid's duties require her to work in a home in an area set aside for purposes contrary to the principles stated at Isaiah 2:4?

Gambling at a racetrack is not dependent upon food. The school owned by the religious organization may not require the teacher to teach false religion; it may use textbooks provided by the government and may even be under government supervision. The maid's work may be simply cleaning, laundering and cooking. Would such work then place a Christian in the position of being subject to disfellowshiping from the congregation? Let us consider some Scriptural examples.

In the cases mentioned the individual is working on property owned by organizations carrying on unscriptural practices. But does this of itself mean that such work is to be condemned? One might call to mind the exhortation to "get out from among them, and separate yourselves . . . and quit touching the unclean thing." (2 Cor. 6:17) Are we to understand this as meaning that the ground itself or the buildings owned by such organizations are contaminating? Or is it not really *the practices themselves* that are "unclean" in God's sight?

Outward appearances are not always the determining factors. The Syrian Naaman, for example, determined that he would "no more render up a burnt offering or a sacrifice to any other gods but to Jehovah." Yet, in his position as a servant to the king of Syria, part of Naaman's work consisted of entering the temple of a false god, Rimmon, with the king and supporting the king (evidently somewhat feeble) as he bowed down to the idol. Naaman appears to have performed this service with some degree of regularity. Yet when he expressed conscientious concern about this matter, God's prophet Elisha replied: "Go in peace." (2 Ki. 5:15-19) True, an observer might *assume* by what he saw that Naaman was a worshiper of the false god Rimmon. But if he talked with the man he would find out otherwise.

Consider, too, the example of Jesus Christ. In his preaching and teaching activity he aided those who were known sinners. Did he restrict such association to public places, refusing to go into the sinners' homes to eat with them lest he thereby appear to be condoning their sinful life? No. However, some, such as the Pharisees, who were extremely scrupulous in such matters but lacking in mercy and compassion, attributed a wrong meaning to this association of Jesus with such persons, making it appear that he was condoning the wrongs the sinners committed. (Luke 15:1, 2; 19:7) But Jesus let his teaching and his course of life demonstrate the falseness of such wrong assumptions. In keeping with Jesus' example, we should be careful not to judge others simply on the basis of surface appearances, assuming that their being employed in certain places constitutes of necessity a condoning of wrongdoing.—Rom. 14:4.

Serious Concern for Effect on Others

Does this mean that the Christian need give no consideration whatever to such factors as the location of his employment, the type of organization that employs him and the appearance that this produces in the eyes of others? No, for such lack of concern would be another extreme to be avoided.

The apostle Paul's inspired counsel to Christians at Corinth aids us to see the balanced viewpoint in this regard. Though not discussing employment, Paul presents principles that apply there as well. In the Corinthian meat markets there was sold meat that came from animals offered up in sacrifice to idols. By buying such meat would the Christian be failing to "flee from idolatry" and would his paying for the meat cause him to become guilty of supporting such idolatry? Would his eating such meat make him unclean? Paul pointed out that this was not the case, since "to Jehovah belong the earth and that which fills it." Looking upon the meat as actually from Jehovah and thanking him for it, the Christian would show he did not view the idol as being actually a god, nor did he worship such. He could eat with a clear conscience. At the same time Paul counseled the Corinthians not to use their freedom in such a way that someone else's conscience could be wounded.—1 Cor. 10:14, 18-33.

Earlier in his letter the apostle had pointed out that not all persons would see this matter so clearly. (1 Cor. 8:4-8) To those whose consciences did allow them to eat such meat, Paul therefore said: "Keep watching that this authority of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to those who are weak. For if anyone should see you, the one having knowledge, reclining at a meal in an idol temple, will not the conscience of that one who is weak be built up to the point of eating foods offered to idols?"—1 Cor. 8:9, 10.

The apostle does not say that the eating of the meat on the idol temple grounds was of itself a sin meriting disfellowshiping. But there was an inherent danger in such act. If seen by another who viewed it as implying a condoning of the false worship, that one's conscience might be emboldened to return to practices of false worship. So, while the act of itself was not wrong, to ignore the consciences of others to the point of actually stumbling them from the way of life would be "sinning against Christ," who died as a ransom for such ones.—1 Cor. 8:11-13.

Applying these same principles to employment, we can see that while certain work of itself may not be wrong, nor such as can be clearly defined as making one an accomplice to the actual practice of wrongdoing, the Christian will still be concerned to avoid becoming a cause of stumbling to others. To illustrate, a Christian may have worked in a restaurant that operated across the street from a racetrack. Perhaps the majority of the customers were persons frequenting the racetrack. Later, an opportunity might open up for the restaurant to lease facilities on the track grounds themselves, and it might transfer its operations there. The Christian's work would continue to be the same, simply the honest labor of providing food, and the customers of the restaurant might be very much the same. Yet in some persons' minds there might now be a linkage between his employment and the practice of gambling. As another example, a gambling house might operate a restaurant on its premises, providing meals at low cost to attract gamblers. So the Christian would want to consider any such connection and weigh the matter conscientiously. He would not want to embolden the consciences of some to engage in gambling, and if he found that such was the result of his work, no doubt his conscience would move him to seek other employment. His concern, then, would be not to become a source of actual stumbling to others and this, of course, would depend to a considerable degree on how seriously the appearance of things affected them. Also, he should consider the effect upon himself from working in unsavory surroundings, faced by pressures to get involved in wrong practices.

But what if the kind of work done of itself is not connected with wrong practices, but the *source of payment* is an organization that is primarily occupied in unscriptural activities? Again the Christian's conscience must weigh the matter and the effect of his or her being paid by such an organization. A restaurant, for example, might be located next door to a gambling house and in course of time the gambling house might buy the restaurant. Thereafter the employees might be paid by the gambling house, perhaps with its checks. True, but the operations of the restaurant may continue exactly as before. So, again a Christian employed there, while recognizing that his work in itself may not make him a condoner of gambling nor an accomplice therein, would want to weigh his situation and the effect thereof on others. His decision would be governed by the degree of seriousness of that effect. The same would be true of a schoolteacher who might teach some subject such as mathematics in a school owned by a religious organization of Christendom. Though not contributing to the spread of false worship in his teaching, he would consider the effect of his employment on others and be governed by what he found to be the results thereof.

It seems evident from the Scriptures that the payment of money by a Christian *to* a person or organization of the world for goods or services or, vice versa, the receipt of money by a Christian *from* such person or organization does not automatically imply that the Christian supports or condones any wrongdoing in which such person or organization may engage. As seen earlier, Christians could buy meat that proceeded from pagan temples. The pagan temples benefited monetarily. This was not by direct contribution but indirectly through the sale of meat.

While the source of the payment for honest labor rendered by a Christian would not of itself determine the rightness or wrongness of his employment, he should show the same concern and caution in this respect as in the examples given previously involving the location of one's work. His desire would always be to advance the cause of the truth and the spread of the good news, not to hinder it unnecessarily. Also one must consider the effect upon himself, whether the circumstances of his employment may prove spiritually damaging to himself, perhaps constituting a spiritual risk or a serious temptation toward engaging in wrongdoing. He cannot afford to let his hatred of what is bad become weakened and softened, for this would lead to acts of compromise and the actual engaging in what is wrong.—Heb. 1:9.

"If He Has Doubts"

In many areas of life, including employment, we must allow our conscience, enlightened by God's Word and his spirit, to guide us. Another member of the Christian congregation may have no qualms of conscience about the propriety of a certain type of employment. But our own conscience may cause us to have doubts. Should we ignore these doubts and let the other person's conscience decide for us? The apostle Paul provides the inspired answer in his discussion concerning the eating of meat, saying: "If he has doubts, he is already condemned if he eats, because he does not eat out of faith. Indeed, everything that is not out of faith is sin." (Rom. 14:23) Thus, when a person feels ill at ease about certain work and cannot justify it in his own conscience, he acts wisely to make a change. He thereby avoids sinning in the sense of going against his conscience, wounding it. At the same time, one's uncertainty and "inward questionings" about the rightness of certain work should not cause him to become critical of others, making an issue of matters unnecessarily or judging them as violators of God's law when there is no clear Scriptural evidence to that effect.—Rom. 14:1-5.

We do well to keep in mind that problems regarding what is acceptable employment are nothing new. The worldly systems and people generally are disregarding the same righteous principles today as they did centuries ago, in the apostles' day and before. Yet the Bible does not provide a long list of rules as to what is acceptable or not in the way of work. Basically, the Bible provides us with three factors that should be taken into consideration: (1) Is the work itself definitely wrong, consisting of activity that is in itself sinful because it violates God's moral laws or contributes directly to the violation of such laws? (2) Is it probable that observers will be given the definite impression that Christians are approving of what is wrong and will likely be stumbled, becoming themselves involved in wrongdoing? (3) Does the Christian personally have doubts about his employment?

The Congregation's Responsibility

Where a brother engages in employment that clearly violates God's law, the congregation and its elders rightly become concerned in the matter. Where work or a product thereof is condemned in the Scriptures, or is such as to make one an accomplice or promoter in wrongdoing, the elders should first endeavor to help the person see the wrongness of his course. In such cases where the connection is definite and evident, it should be possible to make what the Bible says clear to him and enable him to see why it does indeed apply to him. It may, however, take a number of discussions, perhaps over a period of some weeks, to help him see the point and give prayerful consideration to what has been brought to his attention. If it is definitely established that his employment violates Christian principles and he, nevertheless, insists on continuing in it, he may be disfellowshiped from the congregation.

What of cases where the work is not of itself wrong but, because of the location of the employment, the source of payment, or similar factors, it might produce an undesirable impression on the minds of some observers? Here the elders must be careful not to let their own consciences dictate for others, as though they were 'masters over their faith.' (2 Cor. 1:24) The master of a house can tell others what work they can do and what work they cannot do. But elders recognize God and Christ as the masters over the Christian congregation and let their word determine. Where there is no clear precedent in the Scriptures, the elders let the individual Christian's faith express itself as that one's conscience dictates.

Where the work done by a member of the congregation, though not of itself an unscriptural activity, nevertheless, gives rise to questions, the elders can discuss this with the one involved. While not condemning him, they can point out any inherent dangers or risks involved; they can discuss any potential cause for stumbling of others that exists. They may point out the advantages of maintaining a healthful distance from what might be a "borderline" situation. And if the situation develops to the point of being of considerable disturbance within the congregation or a source of adverse comment by those on the outside, they may decide that such a one should not be used in an exemplary way in the congregation. For what is "lawful" at the same time may not be "advantageous," as the apostle states. He therefore urges: "Let each one keep seeking, not his own advantage, but that of the other person."—1 Cor. 10:23, 24.

Elders especially will need to study seriously God's Word and seek the discernment and insight that result in good judgment. They will recognize that "the wisdom from above is first of all chaste" and so they will remain firm for pure worship and steadfastly uphold God's laws. But they will recognize that this heavenly wisdom is also "reasonable" and hence they will avoid extremes in their application of Bible principles, not carrying them beyond what God's own example and his spirit indicate.—Jas. 3:17.

We need not fear that our refraining from setting up a specific code of rules about employment will harm the congregation of God spiritually. When God canceled the Mosaic Law code it did not leave the new congregation of spiritual Israel floundering in uncertainty as to what they should do to please God. The power of God's spirit operating on the minds and hearts of those whose consciences are trained and molded by the study of God's Word constitutes a far stronger force for righteousness than the Law code did. This is true down to this day.

Yes, that fruitage of God's spirit, love, will move the true Christian to reject work that God's Word clearly condemns. In other cases, where individual conscience must determine, love will move him to avoid being a cause of fatal stumbling to others. Practical wisdom, also, will help him to decide whether he should seek other employment in the interests of maintaining his own spirituality and avoiding pitfalls. (Rom. 13:10; Prov. 3:21-23) Thus the Christian will demonstrate that he is "no part of the world," and preserve a good conscience before God and men.—John 17:16; 1 Tim. 1:5, 19.

Announcements

◆ Since the offer for September is any pocket-size book on a contribution of 25c, you may use whichever one your congregation has in good supply. If additional supplies are needed, Brooklyn has a good stock of the *Evolution, Peace and Security* and *Eternal Purpose* books, although other publications can also be ordered. October offer: *Awake!* subscription, with three booklets, for $1.50.

◆ Some circuit assemblies have been adapting district assembly forms for circuit assembly use, using cards marked "Administration," "Volunteer," etc. This hardly seems necessary for an assembly of circuit-assembly size.

◆ The congregation accounts should be audited on September 1, or as soon thereafter as possible, by the presiding overseer or someone appointed by him.

◆ Out of Stock in U.S.A.:

Elberfelder Bible —German
Bible —Vietnamese

Proclaim the Good News (*Cont'd*)

to keep in mind that our purpose in talking to people is to win hearts, not arguments.

[6] Prayer is also essential in connection with our preaching work. While sharing in the field activity, is it not fitting to request Jehovah's assistance? Yes, we need His spirit. (1 John 5:14) That spirit helped those serving in the first century and it is still available to aid all of us today.—Acts 1:8.

[7] Moreover, having a positive attitude in your house-to-house work will be beneficial. Approach the homes in a friendly manner and be cheerful in your greeting. This would harmonize with Jesus Christ's instructions to his apostles when sending them out to preach. (Matt. 10:12, 13) True, some may not appreciate what you say. But this is no reason to be upset or to feel that you are not qualified. The Scriptures make it clear that not all will respond favorably.—Matt. 10:14, 34-36.

[8] How happy we can be that Jehovah God has granted us the opportunity to help others to gain salvation! This is a grand demonstration of his love and patience toward mankind. (2 Pet. 3:9) So may we make good use of our time in continuing to share with our fellowmen the good news of salvation.—2 Cor. 6:2.

Suggested Presentation

Why God Has Permitted Wickedness.—2 Pet. 3:8, 9.

This can be used with the *Evolution, Peace and Security* and *Truth* books.

Help Others to Make Return Visits

[1] Have you experienced the joy of stimulating others' interest in God's Word? Have you found that talking about the truth makes you much more aware of the help of God's spirit? Yes, Scriptural thoughts appear to come to mind quickly and it seems easy to make the right application for the benefit of interested persons. (John 14:26) Our awareness that holy spirit is aiding us certainly draws us closer to our heavenly Father.

[2] If this has been your experience, would it not be a fine thing to assist others in the congregation to make return visits? But whom might you help? What about your children or someone with whom you studied the Bible and who is now a proclaimer of the good news? Elders and ministerial servants might consider what they can do personally to help publishers in their book study groups and to enlist the aid of other experienced brothers and sisters.

[3] One of the best ways to help others is by example. As you work with a brother or sister in field service, why not show him or her how you plan for a return visit? Let this one see how you make a record of a call and explain why you write down certain information. After the publisher has observed how you fill out the house-to-house record for a call just completed then let him or her make a note of the interest for you on further calls. Of course, any explaining or making of notations should be done in a way that will not be needlessly obvious to people in the territory. We want to avoid calling undue attention to our presence and raising questions in the minds of observers.

[4] Also, as others accompany you on return visits, they will be able to see how you go about stimulating further interest and starting studies. By observing how simple it is, they will be encouraged to share in this important work.

[5] You might also consider getting together with another publisher in preparing for return visits. Together review your records. Talk about the calls you might make. Select some appropriate scriptures and points to highlight from the literature placed with interested persons. Discuss what you might say to them.

[6] If all experienced publishers would help just one other person to have a fuller share in making return visits, think of what that would mean. There would be twice as many publishers able to assist still others, and more interested persons would be started on the way to life. It may well be that you could assist members of your own family or one other publisher. Are you *willing* and *eager* to do so? And, if you need assistance, do you make yourself available for it? Remember, return visits are vital in acquainting people with the knowledge that leads to everlasting life.—John 17:3.

[7] Also you could progressively assist your Bible student to appreciate the value of starting a study himself. This will enable you to use some of the suggestions given at the district assemblies this past summer to aid your Bible student to see the need of sharing in the preaching work with the objective of making still other disciples. As you continue studying with him, develop in him a deep love for people so he will want to share with others the good things he is learning from the Bible. (Matt. 5:43-45) Help him to appreciate the need to continue visiting those who are willing to learn more about God's Word. In this way, when the time comes for you to invite him to go out in the field service, he will understand that you do not engage in the door-to-door work just to place literature, but to give a witness for Jehovah and to assist those individuals who are desirous of learning more about God's purposes as explained in the Bible.

[8] Results in helping others to make return visits may not come quickly. It takes time and patience on the part of the teacher. Paul said, "Let us not give up in doing what is fine, for in due season we shall reap if we do not tire out."—Gal. 6:9.

Prepare to Make Return Visits (*Cont'd*)

you are accomplishing something very vital. The individual is getting better acquainted with you and you are giving a witness. In time, your warm and friendly manner, or the impact of a particular scripture, may lead to the starting of a Bible study.

[6] There is no rule as to how you should go about making a return visit. The main thing to keep in mind is that you want to help people to learn more from the Bible and to be spiritually encouraged. The apostle Paul set a fine example in wanting to return to build up disciples, even in places where he had suffered persecution. (Acts 14:19-22) Do you have like concern for interested persons? You can rest assured that Jehovah will bless your efforts to make return visits.

PRESENTING THE GOOD NEWS

When People Are Not at Home

1 When you share in the house-to-house work, do you find most people at home? Or, do you often end up with a long list of not-at-homes on your house-to-house record? And what about interested persons? Are your good intentions to make return visits unfulfilled because of your not finding them at home? Just what can we do to reach more people?

2 It may help to call on a different day or at a different time of the day. On a weekday evening, for example, you may be able to reach some who are often away for the weekend. If for some reason you simply are unable to make certain calls at other times, why not give the addresses to someone in the congregation who could do so?

3 Another thing that can be done is to leave behind something to read, perhaps a handbill. In many territories, however, care has to be exercised about putting magazines or tracts in front of doors when people are not at home. Some householders resent having anything visible left at their doors, since this advertises that they are not at home and can invite burglaries. So in areas where this might be a problem, we do well not to leave any literature that would be visible to outsiders.

4 Some publishers write letters to interested persons or others whom they are unable to find at home after having made repeated calls. If you decide to do so, you may wish to consult Study 17 of the *School Guidebook*. When writing, be sure to *include your name and address*. People generally do not appreciate receiving anonymous letters. Depending upon the circumstances, you may also wish to provide your telephone number so that the person can get in touch with you. One brother received the following reply to one of his letters: "Thank you for your letter regarding the campaign for new subscriptions to *Watchtower* and *Awake!* We have pleasure in enclosing check for $10 to cover the following new subscribers."

5 Possibly you could reach the interested person by telephone. If you have his name and address, you may be able to get his telephone number. When you call, identify yourself by name and explain to him that, because of not finding him at home, you are calling to find out a convenient time for getting together to discuss the Bible. The use of the telephone has been helpful in declaring the good news. One publisher placed thirty-four Bibles in one month, by using the telephone.

6 Trying to contact people who are not at home requires perseverance. How many times would you call on a home where you are unable to find people? One publisher called back at a certain door five times on different days before he found the householder at home. Was his perseverance rewarded? The person he then met was so interested in the truth about Jehovah and His kingdom that in only two months she began telling others about it herself. Another young sister tried seven times to find someone at home and finally succeeded. The man she met took two magazines, and later on, with the assistance of her father, she helped this individual to start walking on the road to everlasting life. In Poland, a sister received a new territory. There was one house the door of which was locked and nobody answered. The publisher made a note of it, and every time she passed by the house she knocked on the door, but always in vain. She continued to do this for three months. Finally, an elderly woman answered the door; she said that because she had been robbed she was very cautious about opening her door. This is understandable and helps us to appreciate another reason for the need to keep calling until we find someone at home. This woman proved to be receptive to the Bible's message.

7 It is important to make the effort and try to contact people who were not at home. In one case, no one was found at home for a period of three years. The woman who was finally contacted had been waiting all that time for a Witness to call and resume the Bible study that had been conducted with her prior to her moving to this place.

8 So, we are wise if we do not get discouraged when we fail to find people at home in our field service. True, it takes patience and perseverance to find them at home. But, would you not be overjoyed if your efforts helped someone to get started on the road to life? Jehovah takes no delight "in the death of the wicked one, but in that someone wicked turns back from his way and actually keeps living." (Ezek. 33:11) May love move us to follow up not-at-homes.

THEOCRATIC NEWS

◆ Since April 1969, under the direction of the Society, over 330 radio programs entitled "All Scripture Is Beneficial" have been produced. Throughout the country 291 stations are now broadcasting it. The program has helped to overcome prejudices and to stimulate interest in the field. In Texas, a man whose wife was separating from him heard a program that dealt with this matter. The information was instrumental in helping the couple to work out their problems and to start studying with Jehovah's Witnesses. A Tennessee University student one Sunday morning, by coincidence, heard the program, along with the announcement of meeting times. She came to the Kingdom Hall. A Bible study was started and seven months later she got baptized.

◆ Ivory Coast reports 1,156 publishers of the good news in May. This was their sixth new peak this service year.

◆ Japan reported a new peak in May of 37,128 publishers, the 106th successive monthly peak. There are now 100 temporary special pioneers working in 50 isolated territories to expand the work.

◆ Lebanon reports 1,539 publishers in April, a decrease compared with the previous year, as war conditions make service difficult. Still the brothers were able to average 9.9 hours. They were able to hold the Memorial during a lull in the violence.

◆ The Cook Islands government has registered the congregations of Jehovah's Witnesses, making this the sixth acknowledged religion in the islands. There are now 45 publishers sharing the truth with others.

◆ A report from Upper Volta tells of a new peak of 58 publishers. A fine circuit assembly in Bobo-Dioulasso was attended by 111.

Question Box

● Might a discussion using the Bible alone be reported as a study?

Usually one of the Society's publications provides the basis for studying the Bible with an individual. But at times persons are unwilling to use any literature other than the Bible. Yet such persons may be willing to have us discuss the Scriptures with them on a regular basis. We can then *systematically* consider different themes, using six to eight scriptures found in a chapter of one of the publications. (See "Presenting the Good News," *Our Kingdom Service*, February 1976.) Such systematic discussions can be reported as a Bible study after they have been held at least three times. (See *Organization* book, page 127.)

As the individual gains confidence, an appropriate publication might be introduced. When this is done, we do not want to give the impression that we are changing from a *Bible* study to a *book* study. The householder should continue to feel that he is studying the Scriptures, which is what he is, in fact, doing when you read, highlight and explain the scriptures in the material.

OUR KINGDOM SERVICE

OCTOBER 1976
Vol. 19, No. 10
FOR UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Dear Kingdom Publishers:

This is the thirty-ninth time that Jehovah's servants have had the privilege and the opportunity to share in the *Awake!* subscription campaign. This magazine that presents the truth regarding creation, religion, the practical sciences and other points of human interest has not always been called *Awake!*

Brother C. T. Russell had for some time contemplated a publication of this kind, but it wasn't until 1919, three years after his death, that it became a reality. On September 5 of that year, the 6,000 assembled at the first Cedar Point, Ohio, convention were thrilled to hear that this new magazine, *The Golden Age,* would soon be published. What was the response? Over 15,000 subscriptions were received before the first issue was ever published. Volume one, number one of this semimonthly magazine was dated October 1, 1919, and the subscription rate was $1.50 a year, or ten cents a copy.

With the October 6, 1937, issue, on the eighteenth anniversary of *The Golden Age,* the magazine took on a new appearance, and its name was changed to *Consolation* and remained such for the next nine years.

It was on August 6, 1946, at the "Glad Nations Theocratic Assembly" in Cleveland, Ohio, not far from Cedar Point, that a vast crowd of 55,000 was introduced to the *Awake!,* which now has reached over ten million copies average printing for each issue. But the original symbol "g" (for *Golden Age*) still identifies *Awake!* as in the *Index.*

The *Awake!* magazine has played an important role in keeping people informed on the vital issues of the day and in whetting their spiritual appetites for the deeper things of God's Word. Over the years we have shown our appreciation for this fine provision by not only

(*Continued on page 2, col. 2*)

Have You Offered to Conduct a Bible Study?

¹ Would you like to conduct a Bible study? All of us should, inasmuch as giving is a vital part of Christianity, and what better way is there to give? A Bible study is the means by which most people learn the truth.—Ps. 145:15b; Acts 20:35.

² You may be one who does not conduct a Bible study. Perhaps you started in field service offering the tracts and are branching out into using the Bible from house to house, and you now wonder, "How can I start a home Bible study?" Well, few people ask us to conduct Bible studies with them. You will usually have to take the initiative and offer to conduct it. But with whom?

MANY OPPORTUNITIES

³ How about your friends and relatives? Could it be that some of them would study the Bible with you rather than with a stranger? Have you asked them? Also, many congregations are having more than a 100-percent attendance at their Kingdom Hall meetings. Who are these additional people? Have they all had the benefit of a home Bible study? If you have reason to feel that some haven't, why not talk to them? Many fine studies have had their origin right in the Kingdom Hall in this way. There may be those in the congregation who have more Bible studies and prospective studies than they themselves can handle. Perhaps there are publishers like this in your congregation who would be pleased to help you start a home Bible study of your own. Why not try asking? You could ask any in the congregation who seem to be having good success in this work.

⁴ You could also talk to the Bible study overseer so that he will have in mind your desire to be useful in this way. Sometimes studies are referred to him by other publishers or through the Society, and he may be able to assist you. Why not ask? Of course, if the name of an interested person is given to you, you will want to remember that it is a serious responsibility that you now have. To a great extent that person's opportunity for life has been put into your hands. Follow through with diligence so as really to develop that interest.

(*Continued on page 2, col. 3*)

Serve Jehovah in Your Youth

¹ "Rejoice, young man, in your youth, and let your heart do you good in the days of your young manhood." Yes, as Solomon says, youth is usually a time of many happy experiences and it is good to find pleasure in these. Youthful vigor and strength would naturally contribute toward a cheerful outlook. But also to be considered are Solomon's further words of counsel to those who might thoughtlessly follow a course of pleasing only themselves: "So remove vexation from your heart, and ward off calamity from your flesh; for youth and the prime of life are vanity." However, "calamity" and "vexation" need not be your portion. The Bible clearly outlines what you can do to prepare for a full and worthwhile adult life, and how you can serve Jehovah effectively, though young, while thus preparing.—Eccl. 11:9–12:1; Prov. 2:1-9.

² Preparing for a lifetime of serving Jehovah is similar to preparing for any other career. Having your goal in mind early in life is best. It helps to eliminate waste of effort and time. So, it is not good to say in effect "I'll begin to think seriously about serving Jehovah when I get a little older." No, *now* is the time to do so!

³ The attitude of some youths today is to work just to enjoy as many worldly pleasures and material things as possible. Adults who have the most materially are looked up to and copied. But Jesus said "Keep on, then, seeking first the kingdom and his righteousness." (Matt. 6:33) Keeping one's mind on spiritual matters in youth will spare one from spending time on fruitless pursuits.—1 Tim. 6:9, 10.

PERSONAL PREPARATION

⁴ A servant of God should learn to read and to speak well. This is necessary if one is to be able to read and understand the Bible, the Society's publications, other printed matter, and carry on correspondence. This is one of the most important aids in coming to an accurate knowledge of the truth and thereafter being able to talk to others about it. Preparing for and participating in the meetings will be a tremendous help in this direc-

(*Continued on page 7, col. 1*)

YOUR SERVICE MEETINGS

WEEK STARTING OCTOBER 3

15 min: Song 32. Announcements, stressing care in handling subscriptions. Read Psalm 2:11, 12. Show need to stay in our refuge under God's kingdom, inviting others to do the same. Isaiah 32:1, 2, 17, 18 describes the peace and security of those who are brought into the spiritual paradise. Identify the "princes" and show how they contribute to the restful conditions of the paradise. (See *Watchtower* 10/1/75, pages 604, 605, paragraphs 1-5.)

15 min: Helping Others to Wake Up. During October we will be seeking to start Scriptural discussions in our door-to-door work, using the Bible whenever possible. When we get a listening ear we will be glad to explain to the householder the benefits of regularly reading the *Awake!* and show how it can be obtained. (See Announcements for details of offer.) The October 8 issue will be a special one discussing the subject "Will Serving God Solve Your Problems?" Chairman can discuss with audience an article or scripture from this *Awake!* that might be especially appropriate in local territory so as to involve the householder in a discussion. Have well-prepared demonstration of a brief, simple presentation built around Psalm 146:3 and 37:9-11 showing that men cannot solve our problems, but God can and will. However, publishers can use any Scriptural presentation they have found successful recently. You might use the illustration on the cover. Or you might turn inside to the article that deals with family life.

18 min: "The Pioneer's Part in Gathering More of the 'Great Crowd.' " Consider first half of insert on pioneer work, down to subheading "Encourage Pioneers." Do this by questions and answers.

12 min: "Have You Offered to Conduct a Bible Study?" Talk, but draw audience into discussion appropriately. Song 113. Prayer.

WEEK STARTING OCTOBER 10
Making Good Use of Our Literature

15 min: Song 31. Discuss how the printed page has been used in "the time of the end" to spread the good news far and wide. Early Christians didn't even have a personal copy of Bible for study or witnessing. We now have complete Bible in printed form, in variety of translations; especially appreciated is the *New World Translation*. (2 Tim. 3:16, 17) Jehovah is fulfilling promise given at Matthew 24:45-47 to have "faithful and discreet slave" bring us needed "food at the proper time." *Yearbook* for 1976, page 22, paragraph 4, shows extent to which literature used world wide in past year. Glad to study it and to place it.

8 min: Branch Letter. Talk, drawing audience into discussion occasionally. Mention that October 15 *Watchtower* is a special issue, and offer some suggestions for presenting it in the field.

7 min: Have accounts report read and bring in any local announcements.

15 min: Why Do We Appreciate Our Literature? Interview a number of publishers as to why they appreciate the various publications supplied to us by the "faithful and discreet slave." Might ask questions such as: How long have you been reading the Society's literature? What especially attracted you to the publications when you first became interested? What do you do in order to arrange adequate time for reading? What is it that you particularly appreciate about the *Awake!?* What will you especially try to put across to the householder during October in describing *Awake!?*

15 min: "Making Good Use of Our Literature." Questions and answers. While discussing appropriate use of literature chairman can extend a warm invitation to publishers to share in field service at congregation's group field service arrangements. Song 7. Prayer.

WEEK STARTING OCTOBER 17

12 min: Song 27. Theocratic News. Local announcements.

10 min: Question Box, talk. Presiding overseer might handle this, drawing audience into discussion at appropriate points. Chairman will want to read carefully Question Box in *Kingdom Ministry* of January and February 1975 so that he can present a clear picture regarding which brothers might be used in various program assignments.

18 min: "Presenting the Good News—At Each Appropriate Opportunity." First consider entire article by means of questions and answers and then use remaining time to hear brief experiences from audience of how some have taken advantage of various opportunities to give a witness. Would be good to arrange experiences in advance.

20 min: "The Pioneer's Part in Gathering More of the 'Great Crowd.' " Begin at subheading "Encourage Pioneers" and complete the insert. Discuss with audience by means of well-prepared questions. Express appreciation for local pioneers—special, regular and auxiliary. Remind congregation of some things that might help and encourage local pioneers, such as, assistance with transportation, working with them in the field service, and so forth. Song 8. Prayer.

WEEK STARTING OCTOBER 24
Serve Jehovah in Youth

10 min: Song 23. Introductory comments. Any needed local announcements. Suggest all publishers familiarize themselves with *Youth* book in preparation for November field service, selecting points to use in presentations. Plans for distributing *Kingdom News*.

20 min: "Serve Jehovah in Your Youth." Discuss with audience by means of well-prepared questions. Look up, read and discuss as many cited scriptures as time permits, asking audience to make application.

15 min: Our Brothers Who Started Serving Jehovah in Youth. Interview a number of publishers who started serving Jehovah in youth. These can be either young publishers who have recently started serving or older publishers who have served for years but started as youths. Might ask questions such as: When did you begin serving Jehovah? How did you get the truth? What especially moved you to begin sharing in the field service? Do you recall what others, worldly friends and brothers, said at the time and how this affected you? What recommendations would you make to young Witnesses today?

15 min: "Like Slips of Olive Trees All Around My Table." From *Watchtower* of June 1, 1976. Chairman should study article carefully in preparation. Can narrate introductory material briefly and then select those paragraphs that you feel would be especially beneficial in your congregation, have them read first and then invite audience to comment, making application, indicating what they feel is to be learned from the experience. Song 60. Prayer.

Branch Letter *(Cont'd)*

benefiting from its pages personally but also zealously offering it to the public, especially during the annual subscription campaigns. During the first campaign, April-June 1938, 30,000 publishers obtained 73,006 subscriptions. What a fine witness would result if during the month of October each one of us could help someone to subscribe so that they could appreciate more fully the value of *Awake!*

All of us look forward to good success in this campaign, with the rich blessing of Jehovah upon it.

Your brothers,
BROOKLYN BRANCH OFFICE

Conduct a Bible Study *(Cont'd)*

5 Another source of Bible studies that continues to be fruitful is the contacts we make through our regular preaching work. But here again, in order to start a study we usually have to take the initiative. One sister had this drawn to her attention when making one of her regular magazine route calls. The woman was always friendly and took the magazines, but a Bible study was never mentioned. One day when making the call the sister discovered after knocking on the door that she didn't have any magazines left. As the door opened, she could think of only one thing to do—offer the woman a home Bible study. The householder readily accepted and a fine study resulted.

6 Conducting Bible studies is a joyful work. It does take a little organizing, however, setting aside time in our schedule each week. But the rewards make the effort worth while. Why not experience this joy for yourself? Equipped as we are with the Bible and other publications, it is not difficult. During this month we will place subscriptions and we have a golden opportunity to start studies using the booklets. Select the booklet you will use and plan what you will say. Good suggestions appeared in the January 1976 *Our Kingdom Service*. We do not have to use the word "study," but we can enter into a discussion using the booklet and in this way help someone to learn what is in the Bible.

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The Pioneer's Part in Gathering More of the "Great Crowd"

"THIS pioneer is most certainly a good representative for Jehovah. He is devoted, loyal, and shows heartfelt concern for others. Not only is he loved and respected by the local congregation, but by all in the circuit. His entire life centers around Kingdom interests." This was the comment of a circuit overseer concerning an elder who had served as a pioneer for twenty-five years.

2 A twenty-two-year-old sister writes, "I am writing to express to you my love for the pioneer service and the desire I have to branch out in serving Jehovah. Knowing that the days are wicked and indeed short I have come to realize that all people should hear of Jehovah and his kingdom. Doing this now while I am young has brought many blessings. Now I am into my year-and-a-half of regular pioneering and during that time my love has deepened for spiritual things."

3 What is it that moves Kingdom publishers, such as these two, to enter the pioneer service, make it their life's work and find such joy in it? It is their deep love for Jehovah, and their heartfelt desire to help others to learn the way to life.

4 They are acquainted with the description of the "great crowd" that the apostle John gives at Revelation 7:9, now being gathered, and they want to share fully in gathering others into that blessed group. They know that it was Jehovah's blessing on diligent preaching and teaching that enabled over two million persons to take a firm stand on His side in this time of the end, and they further realize that it is by this same work that Jehovah will bring in others to whom he is now showing mercy.

5 Yes, there is every evidence that the "great crowd" is getting larger. While in some countries the increase might be considered as modest, in others, people are accepting the truth in great numbers. Jehovah, in his loving kindness, is holding the way open for many more of the unnumbered "great crowd" to say, "Salvation we owe to our God, who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb." (Rev. 7:10) It is a time for happiness, a time to be industrious, engaging in the joyous work of rescuing other interested persons from Satan's grasp and lovingly teaching them the Bible principles that will lead to God's approval, qualifying them for New Order living.

6 There is much evidence that there are many honest-hearted ones in our own home territories who want to learn about Jehovah and his righteous purposes. For example, circuit and district overseers report that as they work in different parts of the country they are finding many interested ones and starting studies with them. They say that other experienced publishers, who work with a goal of starting studies, are doing the same. Note the comments of six traveling overseers regarding starting studies: "Qualified publishers are able to obtain Bible studies if they work at it." "Many are still starting Bible studies in the house-to-house work. Those who are successful in starting studies are those who are really conscientious about their service and who make the starting of studies their real goal." "Most publishers who work for studies have no problem starting studies, though not necessarily on the initial call. Some have limits as to how many they can conduct." "I find I can start twenty to thirty Bible studies a month. At least half of them are with persons who have no literature." "Studies are no more difficult to start today than in the past, in some ways easier." "I feel that for the most part, more people are taking interest in the truth than in times past. This will vary, however, from one area to another." Yes, there are still many people like Lydia, who responded when hearing the good news as preached by Paul. Jehovah "opened her heart" and she accepted the truth.—Acts 16:14.

7 How each of us will share in the gathering of more of this "great crowd" will depend on our circumstances. Some with family and other responsibilities will need to serve as congregation publishers, though serving with the same love and zeal as others. Some will be able to serve as auxiliary pioneers, while others will be in a position to serve as regular pioneers. If your personal circumstances would allow you to be a pioneer, how do you feel about it? If you are free to be a pioneer, then why not take a fresh look at this privilege and see if what is said here applies to you?

ADJUSTMENTS IN THE PIONEER WORK

[8] The new arrangements for the regular pioneer work will make it possible for a number of pioneers who are having difficulty in meeting the 100-hour requirement each month to continue on in the service they so much love. For a number of these, the 1,200-hour-per-year requirement has not been easy and it is appreciated how these devoted brothers and sisters have worked diligently to continue on as pioneers. Now the regular pioneers have a goal of 90 hours each month and it is hoped the major part of that time can be used in house-to-house preaching and making return visits. By reaching this goal of 90 hours a month, it would be possible to have a total of 1,080 hours for the year. However, some of this time may be used for attending two circuit assemblies and one district assembly as well as enjoying a vacation period, if desired. So a total of just 1,000 hours a year instead of 1,200 hours *will be required* for one to stay on the regular pioneer list.

[9] Besides those already on the pioneer list who will be benefited, there will be others who have had a keen desire to be pioneers but who have found that the hour requirement was more than they could reach. So they have hesitated to start out in the pioneer work, fearing that they might not be able to hold to the schedule and would, after a time, have to ask to be deleted. Likely, many of these zealous publishers will now see their way clear to devote 90 hours a month to the field activity, especially with the assurance that they will not need to discontinue the pioneer work at the end of the service year as long as they can report *at least 1,000 hours for the year*. These reduced requirements take into account the financial and other pressures that many are experiencing due to inflation and related factors, and will make it possible for one to serve Jehovah as a pioneer with a greater assurance of success. We confidently expect that many will take up the pioneer work in view of these new arrangements. It amounts to averaging just three hours each day in Kingdom service.

IS THE AUXILIARY PIONEER WORK WITHIN YOUR REACH?

[10] There was great rejoicing when the auxiliary pioneer service was announced. Here was what many felt they could attain as a goal of Kingdom service. There are undoubtedly many who will be able to enroll in the auxiliary pioneer work. This replaces the temporary pioneer work and so you will recognize that some of the requirements remain the same. For example, one must be baptized and have a reputation for good Christian conduct. One enrolls, not by writing to the Society, but rather, this is handled entirely in your own congregation. The presiding overseer will have the applications and it is good to get one and fill it out well in advance of the date you want to begin. The old forms can be used until the new forms are available. The committee will have the responsibility to consider it and decide if the applicant qualifies. The requirement of hours, sixty per month, should put this fine privilege within the reach of many congregation publishers who heretofore have had a strong desire to enroll but whose circumstances would not permit it. Now, if a person can devote just two hours a day to the field service, he can have the joy of sharing in the auxiliary pioneer work. This can be shared in for just one month at a time, but undoubtedly there will be a number who will want to be auxiliary pioneers on a continual basis. These pioneers will be able to obtain magazines and place subscriptions at pioneer rates, but will pay the congregation publisher rate on other literature.

[11] For whom is the auxiliary pioneer work meant? It is for those who have the zeal and desire to serve Jehovah more fully. Some would like to serve as regular pioneers but do not have the time, circumstances or the strength for it. They do, however, have the pioneer spirit. They have the love for Jehovah and their fellow humans and want to serve them. Truly, they have many blessings in store for them as they apply themselves in a whole-souled way to this new arrangement that just fits their needs.

[12] Some who will share in the auxiliary pioneer work will be housewives. Many sisters, by organizing their household duties well, will find it easily within the range of possibility to enroll. Especially will this be true of those without children to care for, or who do not need to engage in secular work. Older brothers who work only part time or who are retired will find this a rewarding way to serve. Some will be able to serve during worldly holiday seasons or might be able to put forth a special effort to enroll when the circuit overseer comes to visit the congregation. Schoolchildren who can set aside a month or more during their summer vacation can be auxiliary pioneers. Many others will discover that there will

be a month or so at some time during the year when unexpected circumstances will allow them, with a little planning, to enjoy this grand privilege.

ENCOURAGE PIONEERS

[13] Should the entire congregation be interested in the pioneer work? Indeed it should! All in the congregation can be an encouragement to pioneers and also to those who are thinking of entering the pioneer work. When the Israelites returned from captivity in Babylon and started to rebuild the temple at Jerusalem a number of factors combined to dishearten them. They needed encouragement! So Jehovah raised up the prophet Haggai who exhorted them to move ahead regardless of the obstacles, adding that Jehovah had said, "I am with you people." The account continues, "And Jehovah proceeded to rouse up the spirit of Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, the governor of Judah, and the spirit of Joshua the son of Jehozadak the high priest, and the spirit of all the remaining ones of the people; and they began to enter in and to do the work in the house of Jehovah of armies their God." (Haggai 1:13, 14) Let us follow the example of Jehovah and Haggai and be a real encouragement to the pioneers.

[14] Elders and ministerial servants, by what they do and say, can certainly encourage the pioneer work. It is good when they themselves have the pioneer spirit, whether they are in a position to be pioneers or not. Thus they can help others to avoid developing a materialistic view and cultivate, instead, theocratic goals. Words from the elders that are positive and encouraging can build up and spiritually strengthen as did Paul's words to Timothy, "I never leave off remembering you in my supplications, night and day longing to see you . . . For I recollect the faith which is in you without any hypocrisy, and which dwelt first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice, but which I am confident is also in you. For this very cause I remind you to stir up like a fire the gift of God which is in you."—2 Tim. 1:3-6.

[15] Parents, too, can do a great deal to direct the hearts of their children toward the pioneer work. Those parents who share wholeheartedly in the field service and who enroll in the auxiliary pioneer work whenever possible set a fine example for their children to follow. Many of our best pioneers have come from those whose parents set before them the goal of the pioneer work from the time they were very young and who worked alongside them in the service whenever possible. They helped their children to see the pioneer work for what it really is, an opportunity to serve Jehovah, their brothers and mankind.

WHAT THE PIONEERS SAY

[16] There are over 15,000 regular pioneers in this country now. Some have been in the pioneer work many years, others, just a short time. Some are young and others are on in years. How do they feel about the pioneer work and what do others say about them?

[17] Concerning a pioneer who moved to serve where the need is greater in Kansas a traveling overseer says, "He is a fine young brother with lots of ability and uses this with Jehovah's aid to help others in the congregation as well as in the field service. He gives a good witness and works well with the publishers. Has six studies now but this should improve in the future after working the territory more. He is a hard worker, unafraid, a good teacher, willing to go wherever he is sent. The assignment here gives him great joy."

[18] The pioneer work lays a good foundation for Bethel service. Another young brother, writing as he transferred from the pioneer ranks to become a member of the Bethel family, says, "The last three years of my life as a regular pioneer have certainly been the richest and most meaningful up to now. They have provided vital experience and training in the most urgent work there is. They have drawn me very close to Jehovah and I have learned a great deal about people and have come to love them." Many others now at Bethel also served as pioneers before coming here and they say that this training was likewise of great benefit to them in many ways. Their deep love for the field service and also their desire to help people, remain with them, and so the experience is of value as they work on weekends and evenings with the congregation to which they are assigned.

[19] Pioneer work is not just for the young. One can start later in life and serve with effectiveness and joy. One sister from North Carolina says, "I just want to share my joy and happiness with you. When my pink card for April was sent in,

it meant forty years of pioneer service—almost half of my life, since I am now eighty-three. It has been such a joy and privilege to serve Jehovah, teaching and making disciples. Now, when I see on the platform an elder giving talks, who was just a baby when I studied with his parents, my heart overflows with praise and thanksgiving to the Most High God for using me to make known His Word and Name to others." When one can look back over a number of years of faithful service it provides a sense of true satisfaction. Such a person is glad he did not squander precious time but, rather, used it wisely.

20 One pioneer, in full-time service since 1907, says, "At present I feel my service isn't much, but it is a great joy to serve my Creator. I am thankful I had a share in putting out the *Kingdom News*. It reminded me of the first service I had the privilege of doing in 1906 when we put out *The Bible Students Monthly* from door to door. And I am very happy as one of my students went out for the first time in the service recently and has continued since. It pays to be patient with studies as long as there is good interest." Concerning her the circuit overseer says, "I believe she was more of an encouragement to me than I was to her. She more than adds to the pioneer spirit." Here is an example of how faithfulness and zeal can be maintained over a period of many years and still be burning brightly at the age of ninety-three.

21 Another elderly pioneer says, "I am very crippled with arthritis all over my body and am not able to walk. But thanks to Jehovah I can still talk, write, phone and send out magazines. In this I am having wonderful results. I am eighty years old, in the truth forty-two years, a pioneer thirty-eight years. I have enjoyed every moment, every hour of my dedicated life. Thanks to Jehovah for his Word, his organization and all the faithful brothers and sisters. My life is happy and complete." There is no desire here to retire from the pioneer work, but, rather, there is the urge to continue serving Jehovah and helping others to get on the road to life.

FORMER PIONEERS

22 In the past there have been pioneers who, because of diminishing strength or personal circumstances, found it impossible to devote 100 hours each month to the work and thus transferred to the congregation publisher ranks. One brother writes, "My work schedule permitted me only four days for field service, of which I allotted one to my family, thus giving me only three days. I thus find it necessary to switch to publisher with the hopes of temporary pioneering every other month." Another said, "I feel that I could do more good in the congregation by temporary pioneering a number of times each year and spending as much time as possible in personal visits and encouragement." Another writes, "My wife and I are writing to inform you that we will be going off the pioneer list. Due to health and financial problems we feel that we cannot meet the required 1,200 hours for the service year. We certainly have enjoyed our time spent in the pioneer work and have had many good experiences to remember. Hopefully in six months one or both of us can renew our service to Jehovah as a pioneer." Such former pioneers still have the desire to pioneer, and with the new reduced time requirements it is possible that some of them will be able to return to the ranks of the regular pioneers, but if not, they might be able to share in the auxiliary work often or continually.

23 Is the pioneer work 'easy'? Not necessarily. It requires wise use of time, diligent application and perseverance. Some pioneers have said that the first six months or so require a number of adjustments including getting up earlier in the morning, a better schedule, more walking. But the longer they were in the pioneer service the more satisfying it became. As they allowed time to adjust to the pioneer schedule and work they found that 'the joy of Jehovah was their stronghold.' (Neh. 8:10) The satisfaction of knowing that you are serving Jehovah, are responding to his leading, and that you are helping others on the way to life will truly make the pioneer work become a joyous way of life.

24 It is clear that Jehovah still has work for us to do in the gathering of more of the "great crowd." Those whose circumstances will allow them to share in this work as pioneers will have the privilege of reaping many additional blessings. So speak with someone who has made a success of pioneer service. Find out how you might be able to succeed too. After prayerfully considering your circumstances, can you have a greater share in the gathering of additional members of the "great crowd"?

Serve Jehovah in Youth *(Cont'd)*

tion. Full participation in the Theocratic School and assisting others in their lessons and talks will be of further great assistance in learning to read well.

5 A good schedule for active participation in the field service on a regular basis is something a young person should have. Not only will this contribute greatly toward the witness that must be given now, but it constitutes excellent training for being a fine field worker, able to converse with others easily and train new ones.

6 Will you be a pioneer when you finish high school? Will you apply for Bethel service? Do you hope eventually to be a ministerial servant, and in time, an elder? It would be good to begin now to learn how to shoulder responsibility. Being a good student of the Bible and sharing fully in all congregational activity open to you will be of great benefit. Associating with others in the congregation who have these same goals or who are presently serving in these capacities will also help you on your way.—Prov. 13:20.

7 Timothy had been taught the holy writings from infancy, and was probably in his late teens or early twenties when he was "well reported on by the brothers" to the apostle Paul. (Acts 16:1, 2; 2 Tim. 3:14, 15) Samuel, Israel's last judge, began serving Jehovah in the temple under the direction of High Priest Eli possibly at the age of three and thereafter served long and faithfully. Josiah was only eight years old when he became king of Judah and, despite the influence of his idolatrous father, he turned to true worship when sixteen years of age and took the initiative to restore true worship in the land. The Israelite girl, who told the wife of Naaman, the Syrian general afflicted with leprosy, about the prophet Elisha, must have been very young as she is described as "a little girl." (2 Ki. 5:2-4) Here are examples of young people who decided early in life that they would serve Jehovah and did so in an exemplary way.

8 There are many things that can fill the minds of young people today. But serving Jehovah, the Universal Sovereign, surpasses all other pursuits in which you could become engaged. Whether you serve him as a regular pioneer, auxiliary pioneer, or congregation publisher, do so with your whole soul, looking forward to increased blessings and responsibilities in the future.

Making Good Use of Our Literature

1 How thankful we are that Jehovah regularly provides "food at the proper time" so we can understand his Word! This spiritual food is highly valued by all of us. When a new publication is released at an assembly we quickly get a copy, leaf through it eagerly, then read it at the first opportunity. Likewise with the magazines we get four times a month. As we regularly study the Bible and these publications we get to know Jehovah better, find out how prophecy is being fulfilled and learn to live better lives.

2 In field service, too, our literature is invaluable. We cannot remember everything we read, nor is there time to discuss it all at the doors, so the truth is available to others in printed form. It can be read at the householder's convenience and many, in this way, have learned the truth.

3 However, we need to be balanced in our use of the literature in the field. Placing literature is not an end in itself. Paul says: "We are not peddlers of the word of God as many men are, but as out of sincerity, yes, as sent from God, under God's view, in company with Christ, we are speaking." (2 Cor. 2:17) We are not literature salesmen and we do not want to give others that impression. We are God's representatives and want to discuss Bible truths with people whenever possible.

4 Is it necessary that we try to make the literature offer at every door? No, not if the person is opposed, not interested, or if other circumstances indicate that it would not be appropriate. Especially is this so in territory that is worked often.

5 When should literature be given away? If the one we are talking to appears to be interested and gives evidence of sincerity in saying he cannot afford to contribute for the literature, then, likely we would leave something for him to read, but, if it is obvious that the individual is not interested and the claim of having no money is a reflection of this lack of interest, then undoubtedly it would not be advisable to give the literature away. Each publisher would have to decide conscientiously what to do under the circumstances.

6 Good judgment must be used relative to leaving literature at the door when no one is at home, especially when the territory is worked often. If you feel that a magazine should be left, then by all means it should be pushed out of sight under the door so it will not act as a signal to thieves that no one is at home. We can always leave a handbill and these can much more easily be slipped under the door.

7 It is reported that in some congregations large numbers of magazines accumulate, get quite old and are never used. We want to avoid wasting literature. We should have the goal of ordering enough magazines but not more than we need. Each publisher should order what he believes is reasonable for his use and then if he places them quickly he can always use other literature. The elders can be alert to the needs of the publishers and adjust the order in harmony with what is realistic. If many magazines of a certain issue are not placed because of an assembly or bad weather, then all can be encouraged to put forth a special effort to use them the next week or so and thus get them into the hands of those who might read them.

8 Jehovah's organization has certainly supplied us generously with literature to keep us spiritually strong and to aid us in the spreading of the good news. We can be confident that this fine provision will continue. Let us then make good use of our literature in magnifying His name.

Distributing *Kingdom News* No. 23

From November 5 to 14 we will have the privilege of distributing *Kingdom News* No. 23 entitled "Why So Much Suffering—If God Cares?" So that we will be sure to give this message the best possible distribution in our territories, it would be good to begin organizing now. The elders and ministerial servants in charge of the various departments involved can start getting things in order so that territory and supplies can be handed out to publishers well in advance. Special meetings for field service can be arranged beforehand and the publishers informed.

Be sure to make this ten-day period one of increased activity. With the elders taking oversight to see that the work is well organized and with all publishers setting aside extra time to share in this special effort, Jehovah's blessing will surely be evident and the work will be accomplished smoothly and on time by our 7,324 congregations.

PRESENTING THE GOOD NEWS

At Each Appropriate Opportunity

1 Are you prepared to talk about the truth as you go about your daily tasks? Jesus and his apostles were. Whether it was when they had especially set aside time for public witnessing or when simply making a stop at a well or marketplace, they were prepared to talk. (John 4:7-26; Acts 17:17) We likewise should have a keen desire to share the good news and be prepared to do so at times other than those regularly set aside for witnessing. We may be in the middle of something not directly related to the preaching work, but when an opportunity presents itself we should take advantage of it.

2 Many opportunities for informal witnessing present themselves. A sister may be busy with housework when a salesman calls. She might ask "Does anyone ask you if you are one of Jehovah's Witnesses?" This could lead to her giving a witness. At work or school there may be opportunities during lunch breaks to explain why we do not participate in some things others do. There may be opportunities to explain our view of holidays, honesty and respect for authority. Our good conduct may cause others to raise questions along this line.—1 Pet. 3:15.

3 Using public transportation provides many occasions to share the truth. Some publishers always carry copies of *The Watchtower* or *Awake!* or some other literature to read. Then noting that some around them have nothing to read, they do the kind thing and offer them something to read to help them to pass the time. This too calls for planning in advance as to how to turn such an occasion into an opportunity to forward the Kingdom interests.

4 Confinement in a hospital or visits there present excellent opportunities for informal witnessing. Many prepare in advance, taking along a variety of literature and jotting down scriptures such as those having to do with Jehovah's view of blood. They are ready then to talk with doctors, nurses and others as opportunities open up. You may have to spend several days in a room with others who are convalescing. Talk with them about your hope. Many have learned the truth in this way.

5 One sister, who spent quite a lot of time in hospitals as a patient recently, had a number of fine experiences witnessing to the hospital staff. She asked one nurse if it had required much discipline to learn her profession. The sister commented that she also had exercised considerable discipline to become a teacher of the Bible. The nurse had some questions on prayer, and so arrangements were made to talk with her again later that day during her time off. A discussion followed during which she showed considerable interest and took the *Truth* book.

6 Many of us are in the truth today because our interest was first kindled through some casual contact with God's people. We should leave no avenue untried in an effort to preach God's Word before the end of this system. Why not think more about the opportunities you have for informal witnessing? Give thought in advance as to how you will take advantage of them. Be prepared so that you will be able to present the good news at every appropriate opportunity.

Announcements

◆ Literature offer for October: *Awake!* subscription, with three booklets, for $1.50; or subscriptions for both magazines, with six booklets, for $3.00. November: Distribution of *Kingdom News* No. 23, November 5 to 14. *Your Youth—Getting the Best out of It,* for 25c, or another pocket-size book and two magazines for 35c. If you have not yet ordered a supply of the book, please send in your order immediately. (It will be left to the discretion of the publishers as to whether they want to offer some of the older pocket-size books to certain householders, especially with some of the older people.) December: *Good News to Make You Happy* and *New World Translation of the Holy Scriptures* (bi12), for $1.25.

◆ Subscriptions should be given careful attention. Be sure you have correct address and zip code. Print addresses clearly. The post office has increased the cost of returning undeliverable magazines to 25 cents apiece, so if addresses are incorrect the Society is charged 25 cents postage for each magazine returned. If you plan to move, send in change of address promptly. Please turn in all new subscriptions at the first opportunity.

◆ New Publications Available:

Is This Life All There Is? —Afrikaans, French

Man's Salvation out of World Distress at Hand! —Finnish, Japanese

"Then Is Finished the Mystery of God" —Japanese

◆ Available Again in U.S.A.:

From Paradise Lost to Paradise Regained —Arabic, Chinese, Dutch, Italian

THEOCRATIC NEWS

◆ **Several hundred publishers who fled from Benin Republic at the end of April and in May are now associating with many of the congregations in the southwestern part of Nigeria. Fine hospitality has been shown by local brothers providing accommodations, food and clothing. Additional food relief was provided by the Society.**

◆ **Zaïre was happy to report its 14th consecutive peak, with 19,061 publishers placing 33,713 magazines.**

Question Box

● To what extent can ministerial servants who are not especially good speakers be used on the service meeting program?

Some ministerial servants who are not especially good speakers nevertheless are encouraging and helpful to others, loyally and regularly support all congregational arrangements, are zealous in the field service and thus have the respect and the love of the congregation. It would be for the elders to decide to what extent they might be used on the service meeting. An elder or a more capable ministerial servant could be assigned as chairman of the part and others can be used to share in the assignment according to their ability. Thus the congregation benefits by hearing from such brothers occasionally on the service meeting, and these brothers are encouraged by being appropriately used on the platform.

There are some brothers who are not yet appointed as ministerial servants but who have *good speaking ability,* show a good spirit, and have the respect of the congregation. Can they be used on the service meeting? Again, it is up to the elders to decide. Such ones might be fitted into an assignment under the chairmanship of an elder. Arranging to have these brothers thus assigned could add interest and variety to the program.

We will still want to keep in mind, however, the high standard that the Bible sets for those who teach and the need to use only qualified speakers as chairmen. (Please see Question Box of January and February 1975 *Kingdom Ministry.*) The arrangement for younger and newer brothers to receive training and experience in speaking is not through the service meeting, but through the Theocratic School, commenting at meetings and field service. It is the elders who have the primary responsibility to teach on the service meeting. We hope the observations made above will provide a balanced view without detracting from the high standard of instruction we should receive at our service meetings.

JULY SERVICE REPORT

	Pubs.	Av. Hrs.	Av. R.V.	Av. Bl.St.	Av. Mags.
Sp'l Pios.	651	115.8	42.6	4.3	116.4
Pios.	15,107	85.5	31.6	3.0	84.4
Temp. Pios.	5,836	74.5	18.3	1.2	74.2
Pubs.	508,232	8.4	3.6	.4	12.1
TOTAL	529,826				

Newly Dedicated Ones Baptized: 5,934

UNITED STATES GOAL FOR 1976
588,242 Publishers

OUR KINGDOM SERVICE

NOVEMBER 1976
Vol. 19, No. 11
FOR UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Dear Kingdom Publishers:

Here at Brooklyn we enjoy having a part in providing publications for your use and to be used in the field. Recently we have had the privilege of producing four million copies of the *Youth* book, and we are glad it is now available in English, Spanish and German.

It has been exciting to hear so many expressions of appreciation for the book from youths themselves. In Germany a fifteen-year-old student commented: "This book is a virtual mine of information. These comments will interest many of my schoolmates, who are not Jehovah's Witnesses." From Canada we heard these comments from a teen-ager: "It really got to me, realizing all the situations you can get into. We should know what the problems are before we start, or it can be too late. Everyone else seems to want to force you into doing wrong."

A Canadian father of five children said: "This publication will be a real safeguard for our young people in view of the problems in school and in the world. It will promote understanding of the world into which they are emerging and promote family unity. I feel this will be a good book for our field service and I feel our teen-agers can use it also in the service."

These are but a few of the many expressions and they really make us happy to produce more of these *Youth* books so they can be gotten into the hands of the teen-agers, where they will do so much good. We know the youth need salvation, and many of them will find just what they are looking for in the pages of the *Youth* book.

We hope all of you will have a wonderful time distributing the book and helping both parents and teen-agers to find happiness in living. May Jehovah's blessing go with your efforts to use the *Youth* book.

Your brothers,
BROOKLYN BRANCH OFFICE

We Have What We Need!

1 Today's teen-agers are growing up in an unsettled, topsy-turvy world. Many teen-agers are searching for answers to what life is really all about. Living conditions are far different from those of twenty or more years ago when their parents were growing up. Problems of youth today are also different. So in recent years a need has developed for a publication that would be of interest and help to the teen-age group. And now we have what we need—the new book *Your Youth—Getting the Best out of It.*

2 This new book should be an excellent help to young people. But they need to get it in their hands and read it to benefit from it. It is our privilege to put it there. The *Youth* book tells them, on page 5: "Youth is a time of challenge. . . . The road of life today has plenty of rough spots. It takes courage to face them. But if you learn early how to overcome the rough spots, then the rest of the road becomes far smoother for you." This book directs young folks to God's Word and shows how problems of life can be handled in the right way, making life more satisfying, as well as enabling persons to be pleasing to Jehovah.

3 Today there are many young people in Jehovah's organization, and many thousands are coming in. In fact, quite a few teen-agers accept the truth despite parental opposition. They recognize the ring of truth when they hear the good news preached to them. They accept it and show their desire to serve Jehovah by entering into a dedicated relationship with Him, doing so while still youthful. (Eccl. 12:1) The new *Youth* book will certainly help these young publishers to get Jehovah's mind on matters and to make their minds over to Jehovah's way of thinking. —Rom. 12:1, 2.

WHO ALSO NEED IT?

4 Who besides the young publishers need the *Youth* book? Certainly parents and grandparents will find it very helpful in their families. They should encourage their children and grandchildren to read it personally. They can also read the book along with them so the entire family will benefit together. We believe that the *Youth* book will help many parents to become more familiar with the problems facing children and teen-agers today and

(*Continued on page 7, col. 1*)

Showing that We Care

1 When Jesus was upon the earth, he was interested in people and he felt tender affection for them. He cared about what was happening to them. That is why he toured the cities and villages and preached the good news of the Kingdom among them. He saw that they were knocked about like sheep without a shepherd. Not only did he help the people personally, but he arranged to send out more workers into the harvest, namely, his twelve disciples, as mentioned in Matthew chapters nine and ten.—See Matthew 9:35-38.

2 Being interested in people and showing that they care for them are Christian characteristics demonstrated by the footstep followers of Jesus Christ. While false religion's leaders may not care for the people and do not take care of their spiritual needs, God is not to blame for that, and we do not want to see anyone accuse God of being responsible for the suffering that has come upon the human family. Therefore, the distribution of *Kingdom News* No. 23 in November (from 5 to 14) presents us with a wonderful opportunity. This tract has a message that brings honor to Jehovah. People need to know why there is so much suffering on the earth and who is responsible for it, and the majority should be very much interested in the question, "Why So Much Suffering—If God Cares?", which is the title of the new tract. There is every reason for us to be enthusiastic in presenting this message.

3 The last time we distributed a tract here in the United States, about 10,500 requests for free booklets were received at the office in Brooklyn. So a great amount of good was accomplished. This time there will be another offer of a free booklet and we hope the response will be even better. Perhaps you can cover territory that was not covered with *Kingdom News* No. 22. But, whatever territory you work, start out in the work early in the campaign. In the cities many publishers may be able to distribute their tracts during the first three days of the campaign. If that be the case, then the regular offer can be used in the field for the remaining period.

4 Although we want to put out all our tracts in good time, this does not mean that we should

(*Continued on page 7, col. 3*)

YOUR SERVICE MEETINGS

WEEK STARTING OCTOBER 31

10 min: Song 40. Outline field service arrangements for month of November. Remind brothers to bring *Good News* book to hall for special talks during month. Any local or other announcements; also Question Box.

20 min: "Presenting the Good News—With the *Youth* Book." Discuss points in article with congregation and demonstrate several suggestions. Mention that other presentations may be used and other books may also be offered during the month. Presentations should lead to Bible discussions where possible.

15 min: Question-and-answer discussion of article on tract, "Showing that We Care." Encourage all, young, old, new, to participate in tract work. Include brief demonstration of tract presentation. Make note of those who show interest and call back with *Youth* book to see if a study or Bible discussion can be started.

15 min: Talk on August 15 *Watchtower* article, "Mildness—Strength or Weakness?" As time allows have audience look up scriptures cited but not quoted in article. Show why mildness in field service is beneficial. Song 14.

WEEK STARTING NOVEMBER 7

15 min: Song 36. Accounts report and any local announcements. Discuss Branch Letter. Invite two or more teenage publishers (selected in advance) to tell how they like *Youth* book.

17 min: Discussion of article "We Have What We Need!" with questions and answers. Encourage publishers to consider all avenues for getting *Youth* book into hands of people who need it.

17 min: Demonstration: Preparing for Field Service—As a Family. Our work for this week is putting out *Kingdom News,* and we want to work with those until they are all distributed. But after that we want to be ready to put out the *Youth* book. Show father discussing *Youth* book with children. Asks how they have enjoyed it. They briefly express themselves and mention points they like. Father then takes opportunity to gather entire family together so they can prepare for field service, know what they will do during month. Father asks children to repeat what they like about book, and they do, providing more details this time. Father shows how their thoughts can be incorporated into a fine presentation at the door. One child then asked to make simple presentation, using such ideas. Father and mother also discuss scriptures they will use in their presentation, perhaps using suggestions from "Presenting the Good News" article. All see need to prepare for field service as a family and then work together in field. (Chairman could suggest that youths also work along with circuit overseer or his wife if they will be visiting soon.)

11 min: Cover material in "1977 School Schedule." Song 39.

WEEK STARTING NOVEMBER 14

11 min: Song 62. Announcements (If there are any *Kingdom News* left over they should be put out as quickly as possible). Discuss need for Christian parents to appreciate responsibility to train children. Worldly parents often sidestep such responsibility by shifting it to teachers, school counselors, older relatives, etc. Not so with Christian parents. Children an inheritance from Jehovah. (Ps. 127:3-5) How do you handle an inheritance from the Sovereign of the universe? Sincere Christians would handle such wisely, with extreme care. So children should be handled in this way. Parents themselves have responsibility to train children. (Deut. 6:6, 7) How?

22 min: Demonstrate how a family can have upbuilding discussions on *Youth* book. Many chapters provide basis. Select chapter; note that paragraphs usually are grouped. Read section first, then take up questions. All in family discussing subject in own words, not just reading answers. Invite opinions and experiences on subject. Through communication, learn what is in the heart. (If possible, use family who have done this with *Youth* book.)

5 min: Discuss with congregation points in "New Study Program."

22 min: Talk on October 1 *Watchtower* article "Let the Bible Speak." May include demonstrations as desired, slanted toward local application. Song 112.

WEEK STARTING NOVEMBER 21

12 min: Song 95. Local announcements and Theocratic News. Then cover following: We live in special period of human history. Chapter of man's life on earth while trying to be independent of God about to end. New chapter under righteous Kingdom rule about to begin. What are we to do? We face difficult times now and in future. Yet Jesus showed we should not be discouraged but should take heart. Deliverance is near. (Luke 21:25-28) In the meantime we have work to do—preaching of Kingdom in all the earth and making disciples. (Matt. 28:19, 20) Work still continues and has success. If people are to hear God's voice, important we continue this work.

15 min: Youths—Are You Communicating? (Discussion and demonstration by young publishers who are good examples in field service.)

(3 min.) See there is need for all to share in preaching and teaching work if sheeplike people are to hear "voice" of Fine Shepherd. Young people need to hear, too, and our young publishers are in an excellent position to help them. How? By good communication. Young people usually know which youths are Jehovah's Witnesses because the Witnesses communicate. New *Youth* book provides excellent material to use in talking to other young people. Could you read a chapter and then discuss it with others, explaining some of the main points and/or Scripture texts, without using the book? This is a fine thing to do. Note this young publisher:

(4 min.) Young publisher at school approached by new student at school. New student offers some marijuana or pills. Young publisher politely turns down offer. New student very surprised, as nearly everyone uses drugs of some form. Third student listening to conversation inquires about young publisher's view on drugs. As new student walks away, young publisher proceeds to explain feelings to the inquiring third student and shows why he or she is not interested in drugs of any kind, covering main points in chapter on drugs in *Youth* book.

(4 min.) Demonstrate another young publisher speaking to schoolmate about points he has learned from *Youth* book. Pick a chapter that would have application in local area and have young publisher cover main points and scriptures in simple way.

(4 min.) Chairman briefly interviews two young publishers in demonstrations: Could ask these or similar questions: Do you find the *Youth* book is easy to understand? What helps you to remember the points well? Do you find the book helpful in talking to other young people? Do you find that other youths are interested in getting a copy of the *Youth* book for themselves? Conclude by showing that young publishers have a great advantage in speaking to other young people. Encourage them to use this advantage well as they talk about fine things they read in new *Youth* book.

20 min: Hearing the Voice of God and the Voice of Jesus. (Audience discussion using the Bible) In times past Jehovah's voice has been audibly heard by humans. (Three occasions: [1] Jesus' baptism. [Mark 1:11] [2] Jesus' transfiguration. [Mark 9:7] [3] 33 C.E. shortly before Jesus' last Passover. [John 12:28, 29]) People today can also hear God's voice. How? Does not require Jehovah to speak in a literal, audible voice. People can hear God's voice by recognizing and paying attention with obedience to what God has caused to be written in His Word. "Voice" used as applying to "every utterance coming forth through Jehovah's mouth." (Matt. 4:4) Similar with voice of Jesus. Called himself the "fine shepherd" whose sheep "listen to his voice, . . . and the sheep follow him, because they know his voice." (John 10:2-5, 11) Christ's "sheep" "know" his voice in that they recognize and acknowledge as true what Jesus said, as recorded in the Bible. They refuse to acknowledge the teaching of "strangers," false shepherds. They obey his commands. How then will people today hear the voices of God and his Chief Shepherd? By hearing God's commands and principles as set forth in the Scriptures. Who will tell them? Not the clergy! No, but only Jehovah's Witnesses carry on work of preaching the good news of the Kingdom and teaching Bible truth in all the earth. Though Jesus Christ is not now speaking in person, people can 'hear his voice' through visible representatives, even as overseer Paul made appeal as substituting for Christ. (2 Cor. 5:20) When Paul preached in Philippi people listened. (Acts 16:14) How urgent that we carry on this same work today if people are going to hear God's "voice"! We cannot ourselves judge if people are "sheep" or "goats." Individuals not predestined for either class. All must hear, and we must continue to preach. (Rom. 10:14) Are there still people in your territory willing to listen? Undoubtedly there are. Continue to preach the Word and let people hear the 'voices' of God and of Jesus. Then they can make a decision and in time show whether they are "sheep" who will gain life, or "goats" to be judged by Jesus as worthy of destruction. (Matt. 25:31-46) All of us, whether young or old, can rejoice to share in this unique vocal work.—Matt. 11:29, 30.

13 min: Interview several young publishers who have had good success in placing the *Youth* book, either at school with youths or teachers, or in field, or by informal witnessing. Find out what they do and have them relate their experiences. Encourage all to use *Youth* book and call back to see if home Bible studies can be started with young persons in territory. Song 73.

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THEOCRATIC SCHOOL SCHEDULE FOR 1977

INSTRUCTIONS

During 1977 the School schedule should be conducted in all congregations as follows:

TEXTBOOKS: The *New World Translation of the Holy Scriptures, The Watchtower* [w], *Awake!* [g], *Sermon Outlines* [so], and the books *Aid to Bible Understanding* [ad], *Good News to Make You Happy* [gh], *Theocratic Ministry School Guidebook* [sg] and *Your Youth—Getting the Best out of It* [yy] will be the basis for assignments.

INSTRUCTION TALK: No. 1: 15 minutes. This should not be just a summary of the assigned material. It should be a well-developed talk on a chosen theme, assigned to an elder if possible, or, when necessary, to a qualified ministerial servant. The coverage should not be superficial but should provide a presentation that is truly informative and helpful to the congregation.

ORAL REVIEW: 5 minutes. This will immediately follow the No. 1 talk, and will be conducted by the same brother who gave the talk. The review will be conducted, not the following week, but on the same night that the talk is given. The questions asked should help the audience to see clearly the main points covered.

TALK NO. 2: 6 minutes. This is a Bible reading of the assigned material. The reading assignments are short enough to permit the student to present explanatory information in his opening and concluding remarks, and even at fitting intermediate points. Historical background, prophetic or doctrinal significance, application of principles and expressions of appreciation for the wisdom reflected in the text may be included. The talk should be planned in a way that allows for all the assigned verses actually to be read. The allotted time should be fully utilized. The material may be presented as a talk to the congregation, or a boy may read it to his father or to another qualified older brother seated on the platform. The father or other older brother may then use questions to draw from the boy comments on the value of the material or he may offer suggestions with a view to helping him to improve his reading.

TALKS NOS. 3 AND 4: 6 minutes each. These talks are assigned to sisters whenever possible. When delivering one of these talks, the student may be either seated or standing. Although using mainly notes and the Bible, the students, when appropriate, may read excerpts or quotations from the assigned material. One assistant will be scheduled by the school overseer, but additional assistants may be used. Settings could include situations arising at home, in the field service, the congregation or elsewhere; at times the presentation may simply be informative conversation between family members or others. The sister giving the talk may either initiate the conversation to establish the setting or have her assistant(s) do so. Not the setting, but the material should be given prime consideration.

TALK NO. 5: 6 minutes. Assigned preferably to a brother with some experience, it should be a talk to the entire audience. While giving his talk from notes, the speaker, when fitting, may read quotations or pointed excerpts from the assigned material. It will usually be best for the speaker to prepare his talk with the Kingdom Hall audience in mind, so that it will be truly informative and beneficial to those who actually hear it. However, if the material especially lends itself to another practical and suitable setting, the speaker may choose to develop his talk accordingly.

PREPARING TALKS: Where the material makes it possible, talks should follow a well-developed theme. Choose a theme that will allow for the best coverage of the material in the allotted time. Prepare all talks with the points in mind to be considered next on the Speech Counsel slip. When a setting is selected, endeavor to choose one that will show practical use of the material assigned, where that is appropriate.

COUNSEL: Specific counsel on each student talk will be given, following the program of progressive counsel outlined at the bottom of the Speech Counsel slip. Appreciative comments on important points covered by speakers, whether stated by the counselor or elicited from the audience by means of review questions, can help to keep the attention of all focused primarily on the Scriptural information presented. Be careful to use no more than two minutes for counseling each student talk.

TIMING: No talk should go overtime; neither should the counsel. Talks Nos. 2 through 5 will be stopped if necessary when the time is up.

WRITTEN REVIEWS: Periodically a written review will be given. In preparation, review principally the material in *ad, gh, sg* and *yy* and complete the assignment of personal Bible reading. Only the Bible may be used during this thirty-minute review. The balance of the hour will be devoted to a discussion of the questions and answers. Each student will check his own paper and, in reading off the answers, the school overseer will concentrate on the more difficult questions, stressing the matter of accurate knowledge and letting the audience turn to the textbooks where the answers may be checked. If, for some reason, local circumstances make it necessary, the written review may be used a week later than what is shown on the schedule.

LARGE AND SMALL CONGREGATIONS: Congregations with a school enrollment of fifty or more students should arrange for additional groups of students to deliver the scheduled talks before other elders, if possible. Rotate the students to the various halls. Where it seems advisable, sisters may take any talk, presenting it to someone else, as outlined for Talks Nos. 3 and 4.

ABSENTEEISM: If a student is not present when scheduled, a volunteer may take the assignment, making whatever application he feels qualified to make on such short notice. Or the school overseer may cover the material with appropriate audience participation.

SCHEDULE

Jan. 2 Bible reading: Genesis 1 to 4

No. 1: *ad* p. 642 ¶9 to p. 644 ¶6. "Genesis, Book of."

No. 2: Genesis 2:7-9, 18-25

No. 3: *gh* pp. 5-9 "Where Can You Find Good News Today?"

No. 4: *so* 1A "What Will Armageddon Accomplish?"

No. 5: *yy* chapter 1

Jan. 9 Bible reading: Genesis 5 to 9

No. 1: *sg* Study No. 1

No. 2: Genesis 6:9-22

No. 3: *gh* pp. 10-13 "When and by Whom Was the Bible Recorded?"

No. 4: *so* 3B "Why Do We Need Help to Understand the Bible?"

No. 5: *yy* chapter 2

Jan. 16 Bible reading: Genesis 10 to 14

No. 1: *sg* Study No. 2

No. 2: Genesis 13:5-18

No. 3: *gh* pp. 13, 14 "How Could Imperfect Men Produce God's Perfect Message?"

No. 4: *so* 4A "Why Do Christians Not Take Blood Transfusions?"

No. 5: *yy* chapter 3

Jan. 23 Bible reading: Genesis 15 to 18

No. 1: *sg* Study No. 3
No. 2: Genesis 17:1-12, 15-17
No. 3: *gh* pp. 15-18 "Why Can We Be Certain the Bible's Record Is Accurate?"
No. 4: *so* 5A "When Did the Times of the Gentiles End?"
No. 5: *yy* chapter 4

Jan. 30 Bible reading: Genesis 19 to 22

No. 1: *sg* Study No. 4
No. 2: Genesis 22:1, 2, 6-18
No. 3: *gh* pp. 19, 20 "What Is the Pentateuch All About?"
No. 4: *so* 7A "What Are the Bible's Moral Standards?"
No. 5: *yy* chapter 5

Feb. 6 Bible reading: Genesis 23 to 26

No. 1: *sg* Study No. 5
No. 2: Genesis 24:1-10, 15-19
No. 3: *gh* pp. 20-24 "What Kinds of Books Comprise the Hebrew Scriptures?"
No. 4: *so* 8A "How the Bible Agrees with Proved Science"
No. 5: *yy* chapter 6

Feb. 13 Bible reading: Genesis 27 to 30

No. 1: *sg* Study No. 6
No. 2: Genesis 28:2, 10-22
No. 3: *gh* pp. 24-28 "What Are the Highlights of the Christian Greek Scriptures?"
No. 4: *so* 10B "Just What Is the Condition of the Dead?"
No. 5: *yy* chapter 7

Feb. 20 Bible reading: Genesis 31 to 34

No. 1: *sg* Study No. 7
No. 2: Genesis 34:1-7, 25-31
No. 3: *gh* pp. 29-34 "How Does the Bible Help to Solve Problems?"
No. 4: *so* 12A "How Bible Training Prevents Juvenile Delinquency"
No. 5: *yy* chapter 8

Feb. 27 Written Review. Complete Genesis 1 to 34

Mar. 6 Bible reading: Genesis 35 to 38

No. 1: *sg* Study No. 8, p. 39 ¶1 to p. 41 ¶11
No. 2: Genesis 35:2-15
No. 3: *gh* pp. 34-38 "How Can We Show True Neighbor Love?"
No. 4: *so* 13B "Who Is the Invisible Ruler of This World?"
No. 5: *yy* chapter 9

Mar. 13 Bible reading: Genesis 39 to 42

No. 1: *sg* Study No. 8, p. 41 ¶12 to p. 43 ¶18
No. 2: Genesis 39:7-13, 17-23
No. 3: *gh* pp. 39-44 "How Was the Good News Preserved?"
No. 4: *so* 15D "Why Will the Earth Last Forever?"
No. 5: *yy* chapter 10

Mar. 20 Bible reading: Genesis 43 to 46

No. 1: *sg* Study No. 9
No. 2: Genesis 44:18-34
No. 3: *gh* pp. 44-47 "How Has Opposition to Bible Translation Failed?"
No. 4: *so* 21C "What Are God's Requirements for Heavenly Life?"
No. 5: *yy* chapter 11

Mar. 27 Bible reading: Genesis 47 to 50

No. 1: *sg* Study No. 10
No. 2: Genesis 50:1-3, 12-21
No. 3: *gh* pp. 48-53 "What Are Some of God's Qualities and Why Should We Seek After Him?"
No. 4: *so* 38A "What Does the Lord's Evening Meal Commemorate and Who May Partake?"
No. 5: *yy* chapter 12

Apr. 3 Bible reading: Exodus 1 to 4

No. 1: *ad* p. 547 ¶8 to p. 548 ¶7. "Exodus, Book of."
No. 2: Exodus 3:6-10, 13-17
No. 3: *gh* pp. 53, 54 "What Can We Learn from God's Created Works?"
No. 4: *so* 20C "What Is the Bible's View Regarding Modern Faith Healing?"
No. 5: *yy* chapter 13

Apr. 10 Bible reading: Exodus 5 to 8

No. 1: *sg* Study No. 11
No. 2: Exodus 6:1-13
No. 3: *gh* pp. 54-57 "What Does the Bible Tell Us About God's Name?"
No. 4: *so* 18C "What Attitude Must Christians Maintain Toward World Affairs?"
No. 5: *yy* chapter 14

Apr. 17 Bible reading: Exodus 9 to 12

No. 1: *sg* Study No. 12
No. 2: Exodus 12:1-14
No. 3: *gh* pp. 58, 59 "How Does Creation Display Jehovah's Wisdom?"
No. 4: *so* 22C "In the Scriptures, of What Is Fire a Symbol?"
No. 5: *yy* chapter 15

Apr. 24 Written Review. Complete Genesis 35 to Exodus 12

May 1 Bible reading: Exodus 13 to 16

No. 1: *sg* Study No. 13
No. 2: Exodus 15:1-18
No. 3: *gh* p. 60 "What Indicates the Length of the Creative Days?"
No. 4: *so* 24A "Why Is the Use of Images in Worship Displeasing to God?"
No. 5: *yy* chapter 16

May 8 Bible reading: Exodus 17 to 20

No. 1: *sg* Study No. 14
No. 2: Exodus 20:1-17
No. 3: *gh* pp. 61-65 "By What Steps Did God Prepare the Earth for Living Creatures?"
No. 4: *so* 25A "Why Do Jehovah's Witnesses Not Practice Interfaith?"
No. 5: *yy* chapter 17

May 15 Bible reading: Exodus 21 to 24

No. 1: *sg* Study No. 15

No. 2: Exodus 24:3-18
No. 3: *gh* pp. 66-70 "In What Order Did God Create Earth's Living Creatures?"
No. 4: *so* 26A "To Whom Only Does Bible Interpretation Belong and Why?"
No. 5: *yy* chapter 18

May 22 Bible reading: Exodus 25 to 28
No. 1: *sg* Study No. 16
No. 2: Exodus 27:1-19
No. 3: *gh* pp. 71-74 "What Reasons Have We for Thanking Our Creator?"
No. 4: *so* 27C "How Does God Testify to His Existence?"
No. 5: *yy* chapter 19

May 29 Bible reading: Exodus 29 to 32
No. 1: *sg* Study No. 17
No. 2: Exodus 32:1-4, 7-14
No. 3: *gh* pp. 75-78 "What Caused Mankind to Lose Its Happiness?"
No. 4: *so* 27D "What Are Jehovah's Cardinal Attributes?"
No. 5: *yy* chapter 20

June 5 Bible reading: Exodus 33 to 36
No. 1: *sg* Study No. 18
No. 2: Exodus 34:1-10
No. 3: *gh* pp. 78-80 "What Is the Difference Between Willful and Inherited Sin?"
No. 4: *so* 28A "What Is the Origin of Jehovah's Witnesses?"
No. 5: *yy* chapter 21

June 12 Bible reading: Exodus 37 to 40
No. 1: *sg* Study No. 19
No. 2: Exodus 40:1-16
No. 3: *gh* pp. 81-84 "How Did God End a Wicked World in Noah's Day?"
No. 4: *so* 29D "How Important Is Belief in Jesus Christ?"
No. 5: *yy* chapter 22

June 19 Bible reading: Leviticus 1 to 4
No. 1: *ad* p. 1058 ¶10 to p. 1059 ¶22. "Leviticus, Book of."
No. 2: Leviticus 2:1-13
No. 3: *gh* pp. 85-94 "What Happens to Us When We Die?"
No. 4: *so* 30C "On What Basis Are People Judged Today?"
No. 5: *yy* chapter 23

June 26 Written Review. Complete Exodus 13 to Leviticus 4

July 3 Bible reading: Leviticus 5 to 8
No. 1: w73 pp. 533-535; g70 1/8 pp. 12-14
No. 2: Leviticus 8:1-13
No. 3: *gh* p. 95 "Why Would God Not Torment Creatures?"
No. 4: *so* 31E "What Kind of Government Is God's Kingdom?"
No. 5: *yy* chapter 24

July 10 Bible reading: Leviticus 9 to 12
No. 1: *sg* Study No. 20
No. 2: Leviticus 10:1-11
No. 3: *gh* pp. 96-99 "What Is the Origin of the Hell Torment Teaching?"
No. 4: *so* 32A "What Is Meant by 'the End of the World'?"
No. 5: w75 pp. 478, 479, Questions from Readers

July 17 Bible reading: Leviticus 13 to 16
No. 1: *sg* Study No. 21
No. 2: Leviticus 16:3-16
No. 3: *gh* pp. 100-105 "What Is the Bible's Position on Torment?"
No. 4: *so* 34B "To Whom Does God Promise Everlasting Life?"
No. 5: w75 pp. 483-486

July 24 Bible reading: Leviticus 17 to 20
No. 1: *sg* Study No. 22
No. 2: Leviticus 17:3-14
No. 3: *gh* pp. 106, 107 "Why Can We Be Certain Unhappiness Will Not Always Continue?"
No. 4: *so* 36E "Whom Only Should Christians Marry?"
No. 5: w75 pp. 511, 512

July 31 Bible reading: Leviticus 21 to 24
No. 1: *sg* Study No. 23
No. 2: Leviticus 24:10-23
No. 3: *gh* pp. 107-109 "What Issue Was Raised in the Garden of Eden?"
No. 4: *so* 19E "How Can We Best Serve Community Interests?"
No. 5: w75 pp. 515, 516

Aug. 7 Bible reading: Leviticus 25 to 27
No. 1: *sg* Study No. 24
No. 2: Leviticus 25:1-13
No. 3: *gh* pp. 110-115 "Who Were Some Outstanding Keepers of Integrity?"
No. 4: *so* 41A "What Accounts for Christians Being Persecuted?"
No. 5: w75 pp. 517, 518

Aug. 14 Bible reading: Numbers 1 to 4
No. 1: *ad* p. 1235 ¶2-8. "Numbers, Book of."
No. 2: Numbers 3:39-51
No. 3: *gh* pp. 116-121 "Why Did God Send His Son to Earth?"
No. 4: *so* 43C "What Are God's Conditions for Hearing Prayer?"
No. 5: w75 pp. 536-538

Aug. 21 Bible reading: Numbers 5 to 8
No. 1: *sg* Study No. 25
No. 2: Numbers 6:1-8, 21-27
No. 3: *gh* pp. 121-123 "Who Benefit from Christ's Sacrifice and What Are Their Destinies?"
No. 4: *so* 44A "What Obligations Rest Upon All Christians?"
No. 5: w75 pp. 556-559

Aug. 28 Written Review. Complete Leviticus 5 to Numbers 8

Sept. 4 Bible reading: Numbers 9 to 12
No. 1: *sg* Study No. 26
No. 2: Numbers 12:1-15
No. 3: *gh* pp. 124-126 "What Kind of Worship Does God Approve?"

No. 4: *so* 46A "Why Is There No Excuse for Racial Prejudice?"
No. 5: w75 pp. 579-581

Sept. 11 Bible reading: Numbers 13 to 16

No. 1: *sg* Study No. 27
No. 2: Numbers 14:11-25
No. 3: *gh* pp. 126-129 "What Kind of Worship Does God Not Approve?"
No. 4: *so* 47A "Of What Benefit Is Christ's Sacrifice?"
No. 5: w75 pp. 581-584

Sept. 18 Bible reading: Numbers 17 to 20

No. 1: *sg* Study No. 28
No. 2: Numbers 17:1-11
No. 3: *gh* pp. 129-132 "In What Activities Will True Worshipers Share?"
No. 4: *so* 48B "How Can the True Religion Be Identified?"
No. 5: w75 pp. 584-588

Sept. 25 Bible reading: Numbers 21 to 24

No. 1: *sg* Study No. 29
No. 2: Numbers 22:20-34
No. 3: *gh* pp. 133, 134 "How Can Superstitions Lead to Unhappiness?"
No. 4: *so* 48G "Why Is It Not Wrong to Condemn False Doctrines?"
No. 5: w75 pp. 636-639

Oct. 2 Bible reading: Numbers 25 to 28

No. 1: *sg* Study No. 30
No. 2: Numbers 25:1-15
No. 3: *gh* pp. 135-140 "How Can We Protect Ourselves from Spiritism?"
No. 4: *so* 49A "What Hope Does the Bible Hold Out for the Dead?"
No. 5: w75 pp. 643-646

Oct. 9 Bible reading: Numbers 29 to 32

No. 1: *sg* Study No. 31
No. 2: Numbers 30:3-15
No. 3: *gh* pp. 141-145 "What Are Some of the Prophecies That Foretold God's Kingdom?"
No. 4: *so* 50A "How Do We Know Christ's Return or Presence Will Be Invisible?"
No. 5: w75 pp. 647, 648

Oct. 16 Bible reading: Numbers 33 to 36

No. 1: *sg* Study No. 32
No. 2: Numbers 35:9-25
No. 3: *gh* pp. 144, 146-150 "What Shows that Earth's New King Is Invisibly Present?"
No. 4: *so* 51A "Why Are Christians Not Required to Keep a Sabbath Day?"
No. 5: w75 pp. 664-666

Oct. 23 Bible reading: Deuteronomy 1 to 4

No. 1: *ad* p. 444 ¶11 to p. 446 ¶2. "Deuteronomy, Book of."
No. 2: Deuteronomy 1:6-21
No. 3: *gh* pp. 151-154 "What Paradise Do God's People Enjoy Today?"
No. 4: *so* 52C "What Does It Mean to Be 'Born Again'?"
No. 5: w75 pp. 675, 676

Oct. 30 Written Review. Complete Numbers 9 to Deuteronomy 4

Nov. 6 Bible reading: Deuteronomy 5 to 8

No. 1: *sg* Study No. 33
No. 2: Deuteronomy 6:4-19
No. 3: *gh* pp. 155-159 "What Paradise Awaits Obedient Mankind?"
No. 4: *so* 53B "Why Cannot Men Look to Science for Salvation?"
No. 5: w75 pp. 698, 699

Nov. 13 Bible reading: Deuteronomy 9 to 12

No. 1: *sg* Study No. 34
No. 2: Deuteronomy 10:8-19
No. 3: *gh* pp. 160-165 "What Is God's Purpose Regarding Marriage?"
No. 4: *so* 54F "What Is Sin Against God's Holy Spirit?"
No. 5: w75 pp. 700-702

Nov. 20 Bible reading: Deuteronomy 13 to 16

No. 1: *sg* Study No. 35
No. 2: Deuteronomy 13:1-16
No. 3: *gh* pp. 166-173 "How Can Children Be Made 'Wise for Salvation'?"
No. 4: *so* 55B "What Is the Distinction Between Soul and Spirit?"
No. 5: w75 pp. 707, 708

Nov. 27 Bible reading: Deuteronomy 17 to 21

No. 1: *sg* Study No. 36
No. 2: Deuteronomy 18:9-22
No. 3: *gh* pp. 174-176 "How Does God's Word Help Us to Realize Happiness?"
No. 4: *so* 56A "What Is God's Holy Spirit or Active Force?"
No. 5: w75 pp. 709-712

Dec. 4 Bible reading: Deuteronomy 22 to 25

No. 1: *sg* Study No. 37, p. 181 ¶1 to p. 183 ¶14
No. 2: Deuteronomy 23:9-23
No. 3: *gh* pp. 177-179 "From What Things Must We Abstain?"
No. 4: *so* 57B "How Does the *New World Translation* Aid Us to Understand the Bible?"
No. 5: w75 pp. 713, 714

Dec. 11 Bible reading: Deuteronomy 26 to 29

No. 1: *sg* Study No. 37, p. 184 ¶15 to p. 187 ¶34
No. 2: Deuteronomy 28:1-14
No. 3: *gh* pp. 179-182 "What Should Love Motivate Us to Do?"
No. 4: *so* 58B "How Do We Know that Jesus Always Was and Always Will Be Subject to His Father?"
No. 5: w75 pp. 739, 740

Dec. 18 Bible reading: Deuteronomy 30 to 34

No. 1: *sg* Study No. 38
No. 2: Deuteronomy 32:1-14, 43
No. 3: *gh* pp. 183-190 "What Prospects Give God's People Grounds for Joy?"
No. 4: *so* 59D "Why Has Jehovah Permitted Wickedness?"
No. 5: w75 pp. 741-744

Dec. 25 Written Review. Complete Deuteronomy 5 to 34

New Study Program

1 At our weekly congregation book study we are currently using the *Man's Salvation* book. It appears that most of the congregations will be able to complete their study of this book by the end of November. Therefore, beginning with December the *Peace and Security* book will be used for six months. After that it is planned that we will study the *Holy Spirit* book for the next six months.

2 So that there will be uniformity in the study of these books throughout the country, a schedule will appear each month in *Our Kingdom Service* beginning with December, listing the pages to be studied each week during that month. This will help to keep some from dragging out the lessons and others from hurrying through the material too fast. Also, this uniformity will be of aid when any brothers visit another congregation, as when on a vacation, for they will always know where the lesson is for any book study evening. This will also prove helpful to the presiding overseer as he may visit different book study groups as well as to the circuit overseer as he goes from one congregation to another.

3 If for any reason, such as assembly time or severe weather problems, a study is not held, the section scheduled for that week can be combined with the material scheduled for the following week. In such instances not all paragraphs have to be read, so that the study is completed within the hour.

We Have What We Need! *(Cont'd)*

it should assist these parents in communicating with their children. Thus they will be in a better position to aid their children and grandchildren spiritually and in other matters of living.

WHERE CAN WE PLACE IT?

5 Consider people whom you know and who could benefit from this new publication. You may have neighbors or relatives with teen-age children who would greatly appreciate it. Also, youth counselors, school authorities and even policemen may find it useful in their work. Young publishers or parents may wish to show this book to teachers and encourage them to read it. Some publishers may find it productive to do street witnessing near high schools, colleges or universities, offering the *Youth* book to young people they meet. You may know some older persons who would like to use it as a gift for young relatives, friends, children or prospective parents.

6 We all rejoice to have this fine new publication for our personal use and now for use in the field service. We have what we need! Let us help many to benefit from the *Youth* book.

Suggested Presentation

Eccl. 11:9, 10.

Magazine Supply

Each congregation should give careful attention to the ordering of magazines. It is good to order what you need. Quantities can be adjusted as the needs increase or decrease. It is good not to run out of magazines. At the same time, it is not good to have magazines accumulate, thus wasting paper.

When offering current magazines, it is appropriate to ask for the contribution. Our experience has proved that publications are viewed as of greater value by the individuals who contribute for them.

Announcements

- Literature offer for November: *Youth* book or other small book, for 25c. Also, tract distribution. December: *New World Translation* and *Good News* book, for $1.25. January: *Watchtower* subscription, with three booklets, for $1.50.
- When recommendations are sent in by letter for appointment of elders, ministerial servants or pioneers, it will be appreciated if these are always signed by the congregation committee. If someone is away and cannot sign, please give the explanation. In most cases, of course, these recommendations are sent in on S-2 forms at the time of the circuit overseer's visit.
- New Publications Available:

  Good News to Make You Happy —English, German, Spanish
  Holy Spirit—The Force Behind the Coming New Order! —English, Spanish
  Your Youth—Getting the Best out of It —English, German, Spanish
  A Secure Future—How You Can Find It —Finnish, Greek, Italian, Norwegian, Swedish
  Is There a God Who Cares? —Finnish, Greek, Italian, Norwegian, Swedish
  There Is Much More to Life! —Finnish, Greek, Italian, Swedish
- The price for all *Watchtower* and *Awake!* binders is now $2.00 to congregations and public, and $1.75 to pioneers.
- When ordering the *1977 Yearbook*, publishers and pioneers are requested to do so through the congregation with which they are associated. Orders for the *Yearbook* in the following languages may be placed after the dates listed. December 1 — English. December 20 — French, Italian, Japanese, Portuguese, Spanish. January 20 — Dutch, German, Korean. *Yearbooks* are 50 cents each for publishers. These are cash items and so payment must accompany all orders along with a Remittance and Credit Request form. Regular and special pioneers on the list before July 1, 1976, may receive a free *Yearbook* by making request of the brother handling the literature. This will be included in the congregation's order, and credit may be requested from the Society for the pioneers' copies. Pioneers may obtain additional copies at 15 cents each.

1977 School Schedule

1 The Theocratic School Schedule for 1977 is being sent with this issue of *Our Kingdom Service*. This schedule should prove to be especially helpful to all those who enrolled in recent years. Note that the *School Guidebook* will furnish the Instruction Talk material throughout the year. Thus all will become more familiar with the *School Guidebook*. The Theocratic School has two objectives: (1) To improve our ability to present Bible truth, and (2) to make us more familiar with God's Word, its doctrines and principles.

2 The student talks will feature *Sermon Outlines*, the *Youth* book and the *Good News* book. By our going through these two books received at our district assemblies, all will personally profit thereby, as well as be helped in offering these books to others. Presiding overseers should check to see that the congregation has sufficient *Sermon Outlines* on hand, and if not, should order these at once.

Showing that We Care *(Cont'd)*

ignore interest that is shown. It is suggested that we carry along a copy of the *Youth* book. This can be offered to any who show unusual interest. Where circumstances permit, take time to talk to interested people, be friendly. Carry along equipment so you can make written note of special interest and make it a point to call back sometime during the month of November to see how the persons enjoyed the message. If we take time to talk to the interested people as we meet them, it can be very beneficial to them. We cannot be sure that we will meet the individual again, so it is good to give the witness while we have the opportunity. Leaving a Scriptural thought with someone will only result in good.

5 Those who are conducting home Bible studies with interested persons may wish to present a copy of the tract and explain that all over the world this message is being given out to as many people as possible. Ask each of these interested persons whether they would like to have a few copies, say five or ten, to give to some friends or acquaintances. When they see the message in the tract, those who study may be very enthusiastic about the opportunity to pass on such good information.

6 We are confident that the campaign with *Kingdom News* No. 23 will prove to be a great blessing, because all of us, as Christians, care for people. May Jehovah bless the *Kingdom News* campaign.

PRESENTING THE GOOD NEWS

With the "Youth" Book

1 It is our wish to see the young people get the best out of their youth. The new book about youth will be a great help to young people, and we want to get it into their hands. Also, it will help parents and grandparents who have much to do with young people. You may already have in mind some points to use in presenting the *Youth* book and you are welcome to use them. We do not want always to leave the door as soon as somebody accepts a book. Keep in mind that our real desire is to start Bible discussions where circumstances so allow. Following are some suggestions that may be helpful.

2 To open a presentation the question might be asked, "Did you realize that half of the world's population now is under twenty years of age? All of us should be interested in the youth today. The Creator certainly is and he wants them to enjoy life. [Read the first part of Ecclesiastes 11:9.] But do we see all of the young people truly happy in these days? They face many pressures in life; there are many traps and pitfalls that take away happiness. Many of their problems can be avoided if they know what the Creator has to say. [See *Youth* book, page 144.] Knowledge is a protection. Knowledge of God's Word is especially beneficial at this time. It can protect the youth from disappointment and calamity. [Read Ecclesiastes 11:10 and introduce the book.]"

3 If the person being spoken to is a youth, then instead of speaking about the youth or young people, you can say 'you' and you may wish to include the first part of Ecclesiastes 12:1.

4 In speaking either to youths or to adults the question might be asked, "What do you believe is the greatest problem facing young people today?" There may be a variety of responses, depending upon the personal experience of the one to whom you speak. If it is the danger of drugs, then we have Chapter 15. If someone feels that there is really no future for the youth today, there is Chapter 24. Really, whatever the response may be, we should have in mind an appropriate chapter in the book.

5 If an older person comes to the door, we may wish to inquire as to whether there are any teen-agers living in the home. If the response is in the affirmative, we may point out that many people do not realize that half of the world's population today is under twenty years of age. Then go into the presentation of Ecclesiastes 11:9, as outlined above, and follow up by showing that we are all interested in youths and want to help them to get the best out of their lives. For that reason this book has been published. It has proved to be a great help to adults in counseling and dealing with youths, and because of its contents, many parents and grandparents are presenting a copy to each one of their children or grandchildren as an aid in making a success of his or her personal life. Reference can be made to the table of contents. It may be said that many parents have found it difficult to raise these subjects with youths, so the book has proved an invaluable aid. Chapters are arranged with subheadings, and groups of paragraphs under the subheading can be read and then discussed together with the young people.

6 No doubt publishers who are parents will be enthusiastic in recommending this new publication to other parents. Here is a suggestion they could use: "As a parent surely you will agree that rearing children today presents many challenges. I have certainly found that to be the case. Many parents wonder how they can follow the Bible's advice to 'train up a boy according to the way for him,' found at Proverbs 22:6. A fine help for parents is this new publication *Your Youth —Getting the Best out of It.* Note some of these chapter titles in the table of contents. [Mention several chapters that would be of local interest.] I am sure you will find this Bible study aid a help to you as a parent in teaching your teen-age children as well as something of great interest to them. [Then introduce the book.]"

7 The following might be helpful in determining which book to offer: "We are calling because people are interested in improving the quality of daily life. May I inquire if there are any teen-age children living in the home at this time? [If so, then present *Youth* book. If not, then continue by saying:] We have something special for youth. However, we have information that will be of great benefit to you. Many people wonder if the time will ever come as described at Revelation 21:3, 4, in the Bible. [Read verses.] Since this promise of a better life under better conditions comes from God himself, we can be sure it will come to pass. The first chapter [turn to it] in this Bible study aid [*Truth* book] entitled 'Grand Blessings from God Near at Hand!' will help you to learn when and how these better conditions will come."

8 May you have much joy and many blessings presenting the good news with the *Youth* book in the field service during November.

THEOCRATIC NEWS

◆ Many brothers in Spain who had been imprisoned for several years because of their integrity were recently released from prison due to an amnesty proclaimed by the king of Spain. It is reported that many of them will return to full-time service in the Spanish field.

◆ Mexico reports a new peak of 84,065 publishers for June. It would have been even better but, due to heavy rains and flooding in many parts of the country, they have not received 240 reports. Although some brothers lost their belongings, none have lost their lives and help has been provided for those in need.

◆ Although there are still about 27 congregations to report for June, in Benin the number of Bible studies being conducted is reported as 270, which is an increase of 18 percent.

◆ Upper Volta is happy to report 62 publishers, their 7th new peak in the service year. This represents a 41-percent increase over last June. A new peak of 3,312 in magazine placements was reached.

Question Box

● Is it proper that the body of elders arrange for musical accompaniment for congregational singing other than using the Society's recordings?

This is a matter for decision by the body of elders. Accompaniment for singing does help the congregation to sing well. Some congregations may not have record players to use in playing the Society's recordings. Where qualified persons with musical talent are available, many congregations prefer to have piano or other instrumental accompaniment. It would not be good to try to use someone who does not really know how to play an instrument well.

When recordings are used, care should be used to replace worn-out or damaged records, thus maintaining the high standard of the meetings that should be found in the congregations of Jehovah's Witnesses.

AUGUST SERVICE REPORT

	Pubs.	Av. Hrs.	Av. R.V.	Av. Bi.St.	Av. Mags.
Sp'l Pios.	662	117.0	41.1	4.3	115.8
Pios.	16,175	85.6	31.1	2.8	78.2
Temp. Pios.	5,853	69.1	18.1	1.1	64.5
Pubs.	510,452	8.8	3.8	.4	11.5
TOTAL	533,142				

Newly Dedicated Ones Baptized: 2,922

UNITED STATES GOAL FOR 1976
588,242 Publishers

OUR KINGDOM SERVICE

DECEMBER 1976
Vol. 19, No. 12
FOR UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Dear Kingdom Publishers:

We are now in position to review with you what has been accomplished during the 1976 service year. A vast amount of work was done in preaching the good news of the Kingdom for a witness and in aiding persons to know the way that leads to life. And more have been sharing in the preaching work, as there was a 2-percent increase in the U.S.A. on the average.

The analysis shows that there have been decreases in most averages—hours, magazines, return visits and Bible studies. While this is of much concern to us, and we all look for ways to do better in Jehovah's service, there is reason to be encouraged regarding our future activity.

The congregations in the United States have now increased to 7,375, and there are 334 circuits and 35 districts. The publisher-to-population ratio is now a favorable 1 to 370. Many congregations are covering their assigned territory frequently, and during 1976, as was the case every year since 1970, all the unassigned territory was covered. So Jehovah is blessing the efforts of his people to widen out the proclamation of the good news even deep into this time of the end.

The monthly average of 17,251 regular pioneers was down from 20,385 last year. But we feel sure that many are now planning to take up pioneer privileges in the present service year or to enter the auxiliary pioneer service.

Since our hours have decreased on the average from 9.6 in 1975 to 9.1 (or close to 8 million fewer hours), this is a good time to think about ways we can personally reverse this trend. Our each spending just one additional hour in Jehovah's service each month would put the average over 10 again, and think of what praise to Jehovah could be accomplished by all of us together putting in this addi-

(*Continued on page 4, col. 3*)

The Bible's Message in Reach of Everyone

[1] As we would reasonably expect in the case of an inspired guide provided by the Creator for people of all races, the Bible has been widely distributed. It is available, the whole or in part, in languages spoken by 97 percent of the world's population. Modern printing has made it possible for millions and millions of copies to be distributed each year.

[2] One of the reasons for the Bible's popularity is that it touches the heart of the reader today just as it has done all through the centuries, because it deals with human problems. It makes no difference what kind of society—farming, seafaring, or industrial—all persons can grasp its message. Human nature has not changed, and the Bible deals with real problems that affect humans wherever and whenever they live.

[3] Have you sat down and just read the Bible itself for an hour or two—for example, the Gospel accounts, the book of Acts or the books of Samuel or of Kings? When you do, note how you begin to feel that you are living at that time. Your heart is touched. Such reading is a spiritually uplifting experience.

LET THE BIBLE SPEAK

[4] When we go to the people, it is our aim to get them to *read* the Bible. Most people never read it. That is why there is so much lack of faith, with increased trouble and sorrow.

[5] In December we will be presenting the *New World Translation*. But our first objective is to talk about the Bible, to get people to see its value and their need for its wisdom. How can we better help them, or encourage them to read the Bible, and show them something it contains?

[6] To get the conversation started, you might first ask them if they have a Bible. You may find that many already do have one. In this case, ask them if they find time in this busy world to read it. Do they have any problem in understanding it? Often this will give you the opportunity to go farther and help them to get right into the Bible. You might even ask that they get their own copy so that they can read from it.

[7] For example, reference might be made to Psalm 37:37, 38, in showing what is ahead for those who are upright in God's sight in comparison with the outcome for the wicked. The Bible shows that God will soon clear away wickedness and wicked people, and then those who love God and their neighbors will be able to live in peace and happiness.

[8] Then you might tell them of the special Bible study arrangement Jehovah's Witnesses are in-

(*Continued on page 3, col. 2*)

Help to Improve Your Teaching

[1] Do you find that you need a helping hand to improve in presenting the good news? Assistance is available right in your congregation. Do not be hesitant to seek this assistance from more experienced publishers. There are many things that can be learned from preparing together and then working together, even if you merely observe for a few calls.

[2] Perhaps your experience in the field service has been limited up to this point to distributing tracts or sharing in the magazine distribution. Commendably you are arranging to have some share in telling others of Jehovah's means of salvation. Would you like to take another important step now in making your preaching and teaching work more effective and productive? Remember, the commission that Jesus gave to his disciples included the 'making of disciples of people of all the nations, baptizing them.' (Matt. 28:19, 20) The command given later at Revelation 22:17 was that "anyone hearing" the good news should say: 'Come and take of life's water free.' The making of disciples requires that we be teachers, and to this end we invite you to take this next step toward disciple-making by engaging in the return visit and home Bible study work.

WHERE TO GET HELP

[3] Speak to your book study conductor or any one of the elders and tell him that you would like this help to improve your teaching. Very likely he will be able to arrange for one of the experienced publishers in your congregation who has a service schedule similar to yours to work with you for a few weeks. You may wish first to gain some experience in house-to-house work, using the

(*Continued on page 3, col. 3*)

YOUR SERVICE MEETINGS

WEEK STARTING NOVEMBER 28

17 min: Song 100. Discuss with audience by questions and answers the article "The Bible's Message in Reach of Everyone." (Exclude paragraph 10, which will be handled in next part.) Demonstrate presentation in paragraphs 6-9.

12 min: Demonstrate how a study might be started on the first call by using the *Good News* book, as discussed in paragraph 10 of article "The Bible's Message in Reach of Everyone." Stress the objective, in any approach, of starting a Bible study, if possible. Include field service announcements.

13 min: Encourage all, particularly young folks and others who will have some time off during December, to consider possibility of being auxiliary pioneers. Several of those planning to be auxiliary pioneers might tell how they are arranging their affairs to do so and invite others to share with them. Call attention to new schedule for book studies. Any other announcements.

18 min: Talk on article "Self-Control—A Safeguard Against Disaster," in September 1 *Watchtower*. Develop so these main points stand out: Why one cannot be lax in cultivating self-control; why recognize our limitations due to sin and imperfection; what it means to pray, "Do not bring us into temptation"; what results, according to James 1:14, 15, if we neglect to continue cultivating self-control; how young people particularly are put to test in exercising self-control; and how self-control is developed and maintained. Song 75.

WEEK STARTING DECEMBER 5

15 min: Song 74. Field overseer discusses Branch Letter and includes some significant trends in the congregation so far during service year. Include Theocratic News and local announcements.

20 min: "Presenting the Good News—With the Bible and *Good News* Book." Discussion with audience. Conclude with demonstration, using suggested texts at Luke 2:8-11 or Luke 2:13, 14.

25 min: Talk, with some audience discussion, on article "Approaching God in Prayer." (September 15, 1976, *Watchtower*) Main points to stress: Confidence in approaching Jehovah; proper manner and spirit in approaching Jehovah in prayer; why offered in Jesus' name (whether name is used at beginning, at end, or both, is optional); meaning of "Amen" and all joining in saying; Bible examples of various forms of and occasions for prayer; why should be specific and fit the occasion; meaning of Romans 8:26; order of importance in Jesus' model prayer; repetitious prayers and use of Jehovah's name; Bible examples of posture; no special posture in prayer *required* (yet not wrong to *invite* our brothers to assume a certain posture or to stand if circumstances make it appropriate); appropriate at mealtimes; power of prayer (Jas. 5:16-18); and why we can confidently expect Jehovah to hear our individual prayers. Song 42.

WEEK STARTING DECEMBER 12

15 min: Song 110. Welcome all in spirit of Hebrews 10:24, 25. Read and discuss article "You Had a Visitor." Announcements, including local announcements. Briefly consider accounts report.

15 min: Question-and-answer discussion of article "Help to Improve Your Teaching." Presiding overseer might handle and outline to congregation various ways assistance will be made available to those needing help.

15 min: Talk, with some audience participation, on article "Counsel—Will You Profit from It?", appearing in September 15 *Watchtower*. The following questions may be helpful in stressing main points: What human tendency often manifests itself when counsel is given, as illustrated in the case of Adam and Eve? How did David show the proper attitude after Nathan confronted him with his sins? How should we react if counsel is given but we have broken no law? How might this be illustrated? What factors involving the counselor might cause resentment when counsel is given? Why is *pride* the root cause? Why is an attitude of being "always right" a dangerous one? What harm is done when counsel is rejected? What fine benefits come to one who accepts counsel? (Remind all to study the article "Why a God of Love Gives Reproof" in the December 1, 1976, issue of *The Watchtower*, and to bring this issue to the service meeting next week.)

15 min: Holiday Witnessing: Field overseer might handle this part. Tell audience what arrangements have been made for special witnessing activities on December 25 (and possibly December 24, if this is a legal holiday in your community). Group witnessing might be planned from the book study locations for several hours of service. A good opportunity for entire family to go in service together. With everything planned in advance, such as territory to be worked and brothers to take the lead, should be fine day in Jehovah's service. Discuss with audience what might be said appropriately in introducing the offer on this holiday. What might be said if person wishes publisher "Merry Christmas"? Without making an issue of this, publisher might say in return: "Thank you"; "And I wish you a good day"; or something similar. Sample presentation might be featured. (It is suggested that these points be reviewed at the meetings for service this week.) Song 107.

WEEK STARTING DECEMBER 19

15 min: Song 108. Using Luke 6:45 and Romans 10:10, show why Jehovah's people rejoice to speak of their heavenly Father out of the abundance of their hearts. They delight to share the good news with others. Local announcements.

30 min: "Why a God of Love Gives Reproof." Audience discussion of article appearing in December 1, 1976, *Watchtower*, using the following questions: Paragraphs 1-3: What does the Bible tell us regarding God's concern for mankind, and the need for reproof and discipline? Paragraphs 4, 5: Why should we be grateful for divine correction? Paragraphs 6-8: In what ways should love and patience be reflected in the disciplining of children by parents? Paragraphs 9, 10: What shows that these desirable parental qualifications find their origin in Jehovah himself? What is the objective of God's discipline? Paragraph 11: Why does Jehovah hate sin and what motivates his anger as regards sinning? Paragraphs 12, 13: How is Jehovah's approach to the matter of discipline illustrated at Isaiah 28:23-29? What lesson do we learn from this? Paragraphs 14, 15: What appealing example did Jesus set for Christian shepherds? What attitude did he show toward repentant sinners? Paragraphs 16, 17: What should motivate a Christian elder in giving reproof, and what is the Scriptural way to deal with an erring one? Paragraph 18: How can reluctance to talk be dealt with, and what is it important to keep in mind even though strong measures must be taken? Referring to closing paragraph, briefly mention what questions will be taken up in future *Watchtower* studies as the subsequent articles are discussed.

15 min: What Impressed You that This Is the Truth? Interview of a few brothers and sisters, telling specific points that convinced them that Jehovah's Witnesses have the truth and are God's true servants. Should prepare for this part in advance. Chairman invites all to be particularly alert to what first got the interest of those relating the experiences and what barriers or problems had to be overcome. Song 109.

WEEK STARTING DECEMBER 26

15 min: Song 10. Show how 1976 yeartext has been of great encouragement to Jehovah's people during the past year. Include discussion of Question Box; also any local announcements.

15 min: Presenting the offer for January. The January 1 and 15 issues of *The Watchtower* will feature in the opening articles an appropriate Scripture text that can be used in Bible discussions preliminary to offering the subscription. Using the January 1 issue, demonstrate presentation that might be used in your community. Encourage all to work toward obtaining at least one subscription during the first month of the campaign. The campaign this year will be during three months: January, April and July.

30 min: Prepare locally, taking up some specific need of the congregation. Song 13.

Announcements

- Literature offer, December: *New World Translation* (bi12) and *Good News—to Make You Happy*, for $1.25. January: *Watchtower* subscription, with three booklets, for $1.50, or subscriptions for both *Watchtower* and *Awake!*, with 6 booklets, for $3.00. If the subscription is not accepted, we can offer a pocket-size book (25c) along with two magazines for 35c. February: *Holy Spirit* book for 25c. March: Any one of the large (50c) books with two free booklets; when all large books have been placed, offer any pocket-size (25c) book.

- The Memorial for 1977 will be held on Sunday, April 3, after sundown. Where more than one congregation uses the Kingdom Hall, it will be permissible, if necessary, to start the first talk before sundown, but the serving of the emblems should always be after sundown. The following may help in determining this time:

The *local* sunset time will be about a minute different from what it was for April 3, 1976. That time may have been given with the weather report in the local newspaper, which may be on file in the local public library or newspaper office. Or a nearby weather bureau may have a record of it.

If this time cannot be ascertained locally, perhaps it can be obtained from a nearby city. If you get the April 3,

(*Continued on page 3, col. 1*)

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"YOU HAD A VISITOR"

More and more reports are received from the field telling that many people are not at home when publishers call. Even when people are not at home, it takes time and energy to go from door to door. When we do not find people at home we might feel that we have not really accomplished much, but if we could leave a message that would aid them to learn about the truth, that would give us greater satisfaction.

It is a pleasure to inform you that a small slip has been prepared entitled "You Had a Visitor." This slip is about the size of a handbill and *should be folded before it is left under a door.* The message it contains should stimulate the thinking of those who find it when they return home. It has a coupon offering a free booklet and invites people to contact the local Kingdom Hall.

Orders may be placed now by congregations. These slips are $1.00 per thousand. When ordering them, ask for NOT HOME SLIPS. We hope this will prove to be a means of giving a further witness throughout the field.

Announcements *(Cont'd)*

1976, sunset time for a location (in the same time zone) within 75 miles of where you are, sunset in your locality will be within about 10 minutes of that time. Determining this information now will permit you to order your Memorial invitations well in advance. These may be ordered in lots of 250 for 50c, 500 for $1, or 1,000 for $2. Please use the special order blank provided for ordering Memorial invitations and remit with the order.

For future reference, you may wish to keep a record of local sunset times for the period of March 22 through April 19, 1977, since Memorial always falls within this period.

● A special talk will be given the week of March 27, before Memorial, in all congregations. The subject will be "The Faith That Means Survival." A manuscript for this talk will be sent in due time. No special handbills for this talk will be printed. The regular handbills, showing the times of meetings, should be used, and publishers can personally make special mention of this lecture.

● After January 1, 1977, congregations may submit orders for the 1976 bound volumes of *The Watchtower* and *Awake!* These will be available in English, Dutch, French, German, Italian, Portuguese and Spanish. Volumes are $2.50 each. There are no pioneer rates. These are cash items and so payment along with a Remittance and Credit Request form must accompany all orders.

● New Publications Available:

The Truth That Leads to Eternal Life —Persian
Bible Price: $5.70 —Hindi

● Out of Stock in U.S.A.:

Crampon Bible —French
Segond Bible —French

The Bible's Message *(Cont'd)*

troducing to their neighbors, also showing them the *New World Translation* and the *Good News* book. Since the *New World Translation* is in modern speech and has other fine features, they may wish to obtain a copy along with the *Good News* book. But if they decline, perhaps being content with the translation they already have, then we can enthusiastically encourage them to read their copy of the Bible. And in doing so, we can direct attention now to the *Good News* book.

9 Again, let it be apparent that you are there to help the person appreciate God's Word. The *Good News* book is an aid to help in understanding the Bible. In it we learn of God's new system where war, hunger, sickness and even death will be eliminated. You might refer to the happy scene on page 4 and ask the one with whom you are speaking if he or she would like to pick up a newspaper and read one of the headlines mentioned in paragraph 3 of page 5. Who would not like to read, "No Housing Shortage—Secure Jobs for Everyone" or "Disease and Old Age Eliminated—Hospitals and Funeral Parlors Closed Down"? Does that sound like a dream? No, it will be a reality, you can point out, because God has promised it. And this purpose of God and other vital subjects are discussed fully in the *Good News* book.

10 If the person is listening well, you might briefly point out how the book is arranged to help people understand the Bible, and then demonstrate this with several paragraphs. Show them how the Bible is referred to repeatedly as proof of the things written. (Note, too, that often scriptures are cited at the end of a question at the bottom of the page. It is recommended that these be read in addition to those in the paragraphs above.) Cover a few paragraphs, such as those on page 5, and suggest returning at a convenient time.

11 If the one with whom you are speaking does not have a Bible, this is added reason for him to obtain a copy of the *New World Translation.* Discussing a few of its features may be helpful.

12 How grateful we are that Jehovah is seeing to it that the Bible's vital message is in reach of all who are searching for the truth and the way of life! His patience has permitted our learning of the way of salvation. Let us do our part as message bearers in spreading the good news of his Word to still others while there is still time.

Improve Your Teaching *(Cont'd)*

Bible with a brief presentation of the offer. This will lay the foundation for some return visits with the objective of starting a Bible study. Or, the one working with you may already have some calls and would be happy to take you along when making them.

4 Of course, before going into the field service it is advisable to prepare something to say that is pointed and interest-catching. This will also help you in gaining confidence, if you are a little unsure of yourself. There is no reason to be afraid or to hold back because you feel that you need more knowledge or experience. Going right ahead while putting your confidence and trust in Jehovah will bring you many blessings. Soon it may be your privilege to conduct a Bible study regularly.

5 Parents, have you recently analyzed what the next step might be for your children in progressively working toward the goal of being disciple-makers? If they are now sharing in tract work or magazine service, would their age and ability make it possible for you to assist them to progress further and use the Bible in their presentations? With your help, could they share in developing the interest they locate in their preaching work? Could a Bible study be started? Many young servants of Jehovah effectively share in conducting studies, especially among young folks of their age.

6 At their quarterly meeting to be held in December, elders are invited to review how they can make loving assistance available to those who need it. This would be a good time also to review what has been done to implement the suggestions on page 7 of the March 1976 *Our Kingdom Service* to improve arrangements for giving assistance at the book studies under the supervision of the book study conductor. In giving assistance, build in the hearts of the brothers and sisters a desire to share in Jehovah's service so that they get joy from it and want to do it regularly.

SEPTEMBER SERVICE REPORT

	Pubs.	Av. Hrs.	Av. R.V.	Av. Bi.St.	Av. Mags.
Sp'l Pios.	690	135.5	49.7	4.5	131.2
Pios.	15,768	85.8	33.1	2.9	82.1
Aux. Pios.	16,388	58.1	19.1	1.1	55.8
Pubs.	500,820	8.6	3.9	.4	10.9
TOTAL	533,666				

Newly Dedicated Ones Baptized: 2,055

UNITED STATES GOAL FOR 1977
599,108 Publishers

PRESENTING THE GOOD NEWS

—With the Bible and "Good News" Book

[1] December will be the first time that the *Good News* book will be specially featured for the benefit of the public. It is a fitting companion to offer with the Bible, because it deals with the Bible's inspiration, what the Bible contains, how it was preserved, and its value. Remember that the full title of the book is "Good News—to Make You Happy." Happiness can be stressed, for people find it hard to be happy today.

[2] In the presentation, try to get into a discussion of the Bible first, if possible. You may wish then to feature the *New World Translation,* or in certain cases circumstances may indicate that it would be preferable to offer the book first.

[3] During the holiday season, Luke 2:8-11 or just Luke 2:13 and 14 will often awaken a hearing ear. Then the note from "The Publishers" on page 2 of the *Good News* book may be read, leading into chapter 1, page 5.

[4] If, after the Bible discussion, you lead into the book, there are many good points to use. We will here suggest some transitions from the Bible discussion to the book, and some features that you may find to be appealing to many people.

[5] You might say, 'Have you wondered how a book written by men could really be a pure message from God?' Then point to the illustrations on pages 16 and 17, showing the different ways that God used to see that what he wanted in his Word was written down, and how he did oversee its accuracy. You might add that it is certainly heartwarming and meaningful for us to read the writings and follow the lives of men who served God, persons who had the same feelings and often the same problems that we have. To see how men of faith stood firm for God and to see how God dealt justly and mercifully with people means much to us; examples are often better than mere words. We can place ourselves in their position. How much better than a book of cold facts and commands, and just as authentic!

Suggested Presentation

Discussion of one or more verses from Psalm 37:37, 38 or use of one or more verses from Luke 2:8-14.

[6] Other features that we could well use are one or more of the historical charts on pages 12, 21 and 26, because many people are confused as to the age of the Bible, and as to when certain Bible personalities lived—before or after the Flood, before or after Christ, and so forth. It helps much in Bible reading to know these things. We also have the chart of prophecies fulfilled in Christ (page 145), a study of which strengthens faith in the Bible's authenticity and in Jesus' Messiahship.

[7] In our opening Bible discussion we may have spoken about God's kindness, his mercy, his justice. In certain localities where people may be turned away from faith in God because of the hypocrisy they have observed in the false religious systems, we may be able to use the pictures on pages 104 and 105 to show that the clergy of Christendom misrepresent God and the Bible.

[8] Of course, the theme of happiness is usually a welcome one. If there are children in the home, leafing through chapter 19 will be appealing. If you start a conversation by the use of Revelation 21:3, 4, chapter 17 of the book, particularly pages 158 and 159, should bring good cheer to the householder. The security mentioned on pages 5 and 6 will also, no doubt, appeal to some persons.

[9] If you cannot succeed at first in getting into the Bible, you may accomplish your purpose by using the scriptures from the "Sermon on the Mount," page 32.

[10] The *Good News* book, when placed in the hands of people, is a good instrument for a Bible study. It should be helpful in bringing many persons to a knowledge of the truth, and may reach some who were not reached with the *Truth* book. Those who already have the *Truth* book will appreciate reading the *Good News* book also.

Schedule for congregation book studies in *Peace and Security* book:

Dec. 5:	Pages 5 to 13*
Dec. 12:	Pages 13 to 21
Dec. 19:	Pages 22 to 31*
Dec. 26:	Pages 31 to 36

* To subheading.

THEOCRATIC NEWS

◆ Cuba reports increased persecution as searches of homes are made to stop the flow of spiritual food. Our brothers are faithfully enduring despite false charge that they are agents of a foreign government.

◆ Conditions in Benin are relatively quiet now. Of those remaining in the country, 1,159 reported field service in July. Those who fled to neighboring countries have been cared for and are now able to look after themselves.

◆ Mozambique was pleased to report 10,032 publishers for August.

Question Box

● Should each Kingdom Hall display the yeartext?

It is recommended that the yeartext be displayed in the Kingdom Hall in countries where this can be done without difficulties resulting. The yeartext is selected each year to provide timely encouragement for Jehovah's people from the Scriptures. And when newly interested people visit us at the Kingdom Hall they are usually impressed when they see a verse or two from God's Word featured as a reminder. From time to time in meetings, specific reference can be made to the yeartext, especially when parts on the meetings are related to this theme.

Often it is best to display the yeartext at the front or side of the hall so it can be seen easily. If meetings in another language are held in the same hall, a yeartext in this language also could be featured. The size of the letters and the makeup of the sign itself should be appropriate and tasteful. Obviously one that is gaudy, with letters uneven or one that does not fit in with the decor, would not be appropriate. When it is time to design the yeartext, there may be someone in the congregation who has some decorating ability who might provide some suggestions on design and makeup. When the Kingdom Hall is in a home or a rented hall used by other groups, the elders can decide if it is practical to have a yeartext sign. If so, it may be necessary to construct it in such a way that it can be put up and taken down easily for each meeting.

Branch Letter *(Cont'd)*

tional 8 million hours. And our return visits, our Bible studies and our placements would show corresponding improvements.

During the year, 43,900 persons were baptized in the U.S.A. We rejoice with these new servants of Jehovah in their stand for true worship and look forward to aiding them to press on to Christian maturity. Since Jehovah continues to show patience, let us imitate him and keep busy extending knowledge of the way of salvation to all who will hear.

It is a pleasure to be working with you in holding high Jehovah's great name in these momentous last days.

Your fellow servants,
BROOKLYN BRANCH OFFICE